

NEWS FROM THE STAFF

OPERATIONS

Alert status: **ORANGE**

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, 1 November: **OPEN** DRAC Meeting 2:00pm, Sky Lounge

Sunday, 6 November: Day Light Savings – FALL BACK ONE HOUR, 2:00am

Thursday, 10 November: Happy Birthday U.S. Marine Corps

Friday, 11 November: Veterans Day Ceremony, 10:00am, Portico

Wednesday, 16 November: Discussion with the Director, 3:00pm, Legacy Room

Thursday, 17 November: Sew N Sew's Craft Fair & Market Days, 9am-1pm, Lobby

Tuesday, 22 November: Deadline to contribute to the Employee Appreciation Fund

Thursday, 24 November: Thanksgiving – Federal Holiday

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

Friday, 25 November: BST Employee Holiday

- See Cochran's for holiday hours
- Minimal BST staffing & transportation

Tuesday, 29 November: Deck the halls, 9:00am, Lobby

Thursday, 1 December: **OPEN** CEO State of the Village, 2:00pm, CC2&3

Thursday, 1 December: Dave's Farewell, 3:00pm, CC2&3

Sunday, 4 December: Resident's Concert Series, BSTW Main Lobby

- San Antonio Brass Quintet Performance

Wednesday, 7 December: Resident Holiday Celebration, Sky Lounge

- Cocktails start at 4:45pm, dinner starts at 5:15pm



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IN MEMORIAM



Billie Star, 7 October
Bob Moseley, 13 October
Betty Granheim, 17 October

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



Antonia Moore #855
Max Bruysschaard #454
Alan Furman #505

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Fred Ryder, Chief Operations Officer

On Nov 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, passed a resolution stating that "two Battalions of Marines be raised" for service as landing forces with the fleet. With this resolution, the United States Marine Corps was created. We offer our gratitude and congratulations to all who have served our Nation as members of the United States Marine Corps. Semper Fidelis.



STATE OF THE VILLIAGE MEETING

Darrel Jones, President & CEO

On **Thursday, 1 December**, our Senior Staff will hold a "Town Hall" meeting at **2:00pm** in CC2 & 3 at BST East. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for updates regarding the previous year.

TRANSPORTATION

Lori DeWitt, BSTW Resident Services Director



Do you ever wonder how we compute charges for transportation? We charge \$2 per mile per vehicle (covering gas/bus maintenance), \$15 per hour for each driver for trips that fall within normal business hours, and \$22 per hour, per driver, for after-hours trips. There is a higher amount for drivers after hours because we have to pay them overtime for the trip. We combine these two amounts and divide it among the number of residents who went on the trip. This way, only the people who signed up for the trip absorb the costs, i.e., it doesn't fall to other residents.



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COVID-19 HOME TEST KITS AVAILABLE AGAIN!

Shari Proctor, Wellness & LE Director

Medicare now covers up to 8 over the counter COVID-19 tests each calendar month, at no cost to you.

1. This coverage continues until the COVID-19 public health emergency ends.
2. Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) will cover these tests if you have Part B. *(Medicare won't cover over the counter COVID-19 tests if you only have Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) coverage, but you may be able to get free tests through other programs or insurance coverage you may have.)*
 1. If you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan, you won't get this benefit through your plan, but will get it like you would if you weren't enrolled in the plan.
 2. You might need to show your red, white, and blue Medicare card to get your free over the counter COVID-19 tests (even if you have another card for a Medicare Advantage Plan or Medicare Part D plan).

Below is a list of local pharmacies that can provide free home test kits: Walgreens, CVS, HEB Pharmacies, and Walmart.

BE SURE TO CALL THE PHARMACY FIRST TO MAKE SURE THEY HAVE A SUPPLY OF KITS TO GIVE YOU.

Wellness is still accepting donated test kits.

SCAM ARTICLE

Ashlie Campos, Personal Affairs Advisor

Pumpkin spice and...scammers are not nice!

With the holidays approaching quickly, please be cautious on the websites you use to purchase gifts and other items online. A lot of websites look "real" and have seemingly good deals, but sometimes those deals are too good to be true. Please do your research and buy from well-established companies, and never give any personal information to anyone, e.g., full name, Social Security number, date of birth, physical address, or bank accounts.



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A BIG EAGLE THANK YOU

Jennifer Z. Berg Matthews, Director of Development

On Thursday, Oct 13, Blue Skies hosted its 23rd annual Eagle Dinner. The night was a remarkable success, and it was all thanks to our incredible staff. Nine BST employees apart from General Jones and the Development office volunteered to stay after hours and help serve, bus tables, and coordinate behind the scenes. Chef Brad also returned to our campus to help execute his menu for the evening, and newly- appointed Chef Jennifer showed herself to be a team player and excellent leader in the kitchen. Guy, Nikki, and the entire dining staff did a superb job handling the record-setting crowd of 155 guests, and the food was incredible.

Mostly, I want to take the opportunity to thank my team, without whom the dinner would not be possible. Mitch created lists and logs and helped put all the materials together for the event. Daniel again showed his organizational prowess as our event coordinator for the Charitable Foundation and pulled off a night that was fun, beautiful, and memorable. The photo booth sponsored by Leonard Contracting was an extra special touch (Daniel's idea), and we have digital copies of all the photos, should you need a fresh copy!

Lastly, I'd like to thank all of you out there who are Eagle Donors. It is because of you that we can take care of your friends and neighbors, provide enhancements to the campuses, and execute so many other programs and projects that would not be possible in other circumstances. Thank you!

Cheers to another successful Eagle Dinner!



New Eagle Donors in attendance, for the 2022 Eagle Dinner:

Top center of photo:
Maj Gen Duane Young, and Mrs. Pat Wagner.

Starting at lower left, to top center, continuing down to bottom right:

Lt Col Mike Fox, Mrs. Marguerite Fox, Mrs.



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Peggy Young, Fred Zedeck, Judie Zedeck, Col John Siebert, Mrs. Elaine Bell, LTC Leo Bell Jr., Sgt Donald Coleman, and Ms. Jennifer Coleman (for the LTC Fred Jr. and Mrs. Lois Coleman Trust), Lt Col Jack Briggs, Brig Gen Russ McCarthy, Mrs. Linda Briggs, Mrs. Patricia McCarthy, MSG Jan Olsen, SGM Jim Edwards, Mrs. Diane Marx, Mrs. Jane Stuart, and Rev. David Marx.

Additional new Eagles:

Mr. Douglas Rosencrans also attended but arrived later in the evening.

Unable to attend: Mrs. Douglas Rosencrans, Mrs. Carolyn Sherman, Gen John Jumper, and Mrs. Ellen Jumper.

Corporate new Eagles also recognized: DOCUmentation, Fisher House Inc., and Sitterle Homes.

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, 3 November		Thursday, 10 November	
Hi-Rise	Floors 1 & 2	Hi-Rise	Floor 3
Mid-Rise	Floor 1	Mid-Rise	Floor 2
Cottages	1728-1731	Cottages	1748-1750
Hills		Hills	
Health Care		Health Care	
Specials	AH: Interior common & exterior Cochrans: Interior & exterior	Specials	Hobby Shop: Exterior

Thursday, 17 November		Thursday, 24 November	
Hi-Rise	Floor 4	Hi-Rise	Floor 5
Mid-Rise	Floor 3	Mid-Rise	Exterior
Cottages		Cottages	
Hills		Hills	
Health Care		Health Care	TM: Main HCC, kitchen, & exterior
Specials	MX: Exterior	Specials	Main kitchen & dining MX: Interior common F&V: Exterior



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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
Bridget Smith	3 Nov	2	Freedom House
Darrin Bell	3 Nov	2	Dinning Services
Manuel Alvarado	5 Nov	3	Resident Services
Silvia Loera	5 Nov	3	Environmental Services
Arielle Corona	6 Nov	7	Freedom House
Crystal Reyes	8 Nov	3	Freedom House
Antonia Garcia	9 Nov	10	The Mission
Lilia Narvaiz	9 Nov	4	Arnold House
Irene Tomei	9 Nov	6	Marketing
Jesus Sifuentes	13 Nov	33	Maintenance
Carol Estala	13 Nov	7	Life Enrichment
Albert Bolt	16 Nov	4	Dining Services
Cecilia Andrade	16 Nov	1	Environmental Services
Alejandra Avilez	16 Nov	1	The Mission
Diana Raphael	16 Nov	1	The Mission
Isabelle Bryan	22 Nov	12	Resident Services
Rosario Ansualda	23 Nov	29	The Mission
Wendy Sobczyk	24 Nov	8	Finance
The Fonz Mendez	30 Nov	1	Arnold House



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RESIDENT'S CORNER

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Betty Petranoff

Wednesday, 7 December in the Sky Lounge. Entertainment by DJ Tony Styles!

Join us for a cocktail at 4:45pm – dinner starts at 5:15pm. Please show up in your best cocktail attire!

This celebration is for BSTE residents only, sorry no guests. The cost is \$35 and signup is required for ALL residents, even those that are sitting at a sponsored table. Please sign up in CC1 between 14-30 November.

Please contact Betty Petranoff at 858-337-9037 or bettypetranoff@gmail.com

Menu

Caesar Salad w/ croissants

Prime Rib w/ Turnips

Twice Baked Potato

Green Beans Almondine

Bavarian Cream w/ Raspberry Sauce

Coffee & Tea

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS (DFC) SOCIETY MEETING

Robert Certain, BSTW Resident

The Alamo Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society will hold their monthly meeting on **Wednesday, 9 November** at **10am** at **BSTW** in the **Roadrunner Lounge**. Bill Manchester, curator of the Lackland History Office, will present a program about the many aircraft on display at JB San Antonio-Lackland.

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



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VILLAGE VOICES

Judy Hooge & Nancy Jones Sowada, BSTW Residents

The Village Voices invite you to our Holiday Concert entitled "A Bit of Holiday Cheer." Please join us on **Thursday, 1 December** at **7:30pm** in the Blue Skies West lobby or **Friday, 2 December** at **7pm** in the CC rooms at Blue Skies East. We will reflect on Advent and the other holidays that occur at this time of year. We will kindle the candles for Hanukkah. Santa will be visiting Hackensack, Peapack, Secaucus, and other places through song and he will be delivering iPhones, crypto currencies, model airplane kits, and leg lamps from the movie The Christmas Story, but he will probably not bring fruit cakes! We will all be singing Joy to the World and Silent Night. Members from the Blue Skies West Handbell Choir will play with us and so will Jane Rock, oboist. We will also sing our Christmas concert at The Mission, Liberty House and Freedom House in December.

The members of the Village Voices are thankful to the residents of Blue Skies West who contribute to the Activities Coordinating Council (ACC), and we are thankful to the ACC for providing us with funding to purchase new music.

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Betty Chalfont, BSTW Resident

National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on **Saturday, 17 December** at over 3,136 locations in all 50 States, at sea and abroad. Last year, over 2.4 million wreaths were laid. The wreath-laying is coordinated on that day with the laying of wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery. When the wreath is laid on a grave, each veteran's name is said out loud. What a special way to remember them!



From the Revolutionary War to present-day conflicts, our veterans have placed their lives on the line for our freedom. Let us now honor our family members, our friends or a veteran by ordering a live wreath(s) to be placed on a grave at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio. We can arrange a grave-specific wreath-laying at Fort Sam Houston Cemetery. Each wreath is \$15.00. Please note that the order deadline is **Monday, 28 November**. Please see Danielle Weintraub in resident services for an order form.



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ANNUAL FALL/WINTER ART FAIR

Patricia McCarthy, BSTW Resident

The Annual BSTW Fall/Winter Art Fair will be held on **Friday, 9 December** from **10am-3pm** in the Main Lobby. Setup will begin at **9am**. Residents from both campuses are invited to participate (or visit!). The purpose of this event is to provide a venue for our creative neighbors to display / sell their creations.

Notes:

- Baked goods may be included this year.
- Each participant is responsible for collecting their own funds.
- BST will provide the space, tables, and chairs.
- All items must be handmade by the artisan who is registered for the space.

If you have never participated as a seller, please call me (see Resident Directory) and I will forward you the registration form through our internal mail.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION FUND

BSTE Resident Council

It has been a long-standing tradition for Blue Skies' residents to express an additional "Thank You" through the Employee Appreciation Fund. Your gifts qualify as donations to the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation, and as such, will be included in your annual charitable contribution statement. You can participate by placing a check (please use checks instead of cash) into the slot marked "Employee Appreciation Fund" at the Front Desk or by making arrangements with Finance for a specific amount to be added to your monthly service statement. These funds are distributed twice a year (near the beginning of June and December) to all qualifying, hourly-paid employees (except for the Beauty Salon employees, the only employees allowed to receive tips). Your check must be received at the Front Desk no later than **Tuesday, 22 November by noon** to be counted in the upcoming distribution; otherwise, they will be applied to the mid-2023 amount. Checks should be made **payable to AFVCF** or Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation with "Employees' Appreciation Fund" on the comment line. Thank you.

Special Note: In addition to those individuals you see every day, such as the wait staff, housekeepers and custodians, and Front Desk/Courtesy Officer and Maintenance teams, we've been asked: "Who are some of the behind-the-scenes employees that our Appreciation Fund reaches?" Here is a not all-inclusive sample: utility workers in back-of-the-house kitchens, cooks, Finance clerks, overnight Front Desk and Courtesy



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Officer teams, and overnight shift nursing and assisted living team members. Your gift makes a difference to a wide variety of BST hourly staff members!



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