

# ROADRUNNER

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DECEMBER 2023

VOLUME 2023-12



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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Safety

Reminder there is now two-way traffic on Montgomery road and the cross traffic does NOT stop. Please use extreme caution when exiting through the Freedom House gate.

### Resident Roster

Last call to check to ensure your information is correct in the Resident Roster. Please stop by the Front Desk.

### Cabinets in CC Rooms

There are still several cabinets unaccounted for, we'll be "breaking in" to these soon, removing items, and changing the locks on unclaimed cabinets. Please let me know if one of these belong to your group.

## Save the Date:

**Sunday, December 3 - San Antonio Brass Quintet - 3pm - Main Lobby**

**Wednesday, December 6 - Activities Coordinating Council Meeting - 9am - Roadrunner Lounge**

**Thursday, December 7 - Village Voices Concert - 7:30pm - Main Lobby**

**Friday, December 8 - Briscoe Middle School Band/Christmas Music - 9:30am - Main Lobby**

**Sunday, December 10 - Village of Holiday Lights - 5:30-8:30pm - Main Lobby**

**Tuesday, December 12 - St. Louis Catholic School Christmas Play - 9:30-11:30am - Main Lobby**

**Wednesday, December 13 - B&A - 5:15pm**

**Thursday, December 14 - DRAC Meeting - 1:30pm - Roadrunner Lounge**

**Friday, December 15 - Handbell Concert - 2pm - Main Lobby**

**Saturday, December 16 - JBSA 59th Medical Operation Squadron Christmas Carolers - 5:30 - The Lakeview**

**Sunday, December 17 - Protestant Church Sponsored Hymn Carol Sing - 3-5pm - Main Lobby**

**Monday, December 18 - Resident Council Meeting - 1:30pm - Roadrunner Lounge (NOTICE date change)**

**Wednesday, December 20 - Christmas Caroling by Children's Youth Choir of Christ Episcopal Church - 2:30-3:15pm - Main Lobby**

**Wednesday, December 20 - Girl Scouts Caroling - 5-8pm - Towers**

**Wednesday, December 20 - Kathie Estrada Farewell - 10:30am - Main Lobby**

**Thursday, December 21 - Lighting up Santa Shuffle Walk - 5:30-6:30pm - Main Lobby Outside Doors**

# Resident Services Announcements

## Welcome New Residents

Please give the following new residents a warm Blue Skies West "Welcome" in your respective neighborhoods.

**David & Camille Sweigart, #134**

**Hazel Gully, #136**

**Richard and Jeanette Brace, #141**

**James Edward Lord, #226**

**Ken and Sally Brockway, #447**

**Homer and Becky Hall, #806**

**Earl Ferguson and Sun Paik, #1507**

**Billy Bingham, #2212**

### **You're a Mean One Mr. Scammer!**

#### **~ Ashlie Maltos**

Criminals tend to target holiday shoppers because they're busy, distracted and shopping more than usual. It's easy to get caught up in the holiday bustle but be sure to be mindful. No matter whether you're shopping online or in person, pay attention to your surroundings, who's asking you for information and why. Don't give out your personal information without authenticating the source. And keep an eye on your balances. Not only on your credit cards, but also Apple Pay, Venmo and other payment sources for suspicious activity.



### **Green Containers**

If your container is broken (seals compromised) please bring the broken container to the Front Desk and we'll trade it out for a new one.

### **Kathie Estrada, Director of HR, is retiring!!**

At the end of December, Kathie will say goodbye to 16.5 years at Blue Skies of Texas. Kathie officially retired from the Air Force in August of 2007, though she started at Blue Skies of Texas in June of 2007. Kathie started as the Resident Services Director at East, then transitioned into the Executive Director of East. Following several years at East, she moved into the Director of Corporate Compliance position, where she stayed until she moved to the Director of HR position in December 2019. Kathie says, "It has been a great honor to work and serve at Blue Skies of Texas. Over the years I've worked with the most inspiring staff members anyone can imagine." She feels so fortunate to have met so many military and community families who have all served their communities and Nation. We wish Kathie the best in her retirement!

Please come say farewell on Wednesday, **December 20** at 10:30am in the Main Lobby.

### **Farewell to Fred Ryder**

Fred Ryder is retiring at the end of the year. Fred retired from the Air Force and started work at Blue Skies of Texas in May of 2009. Fred served as the Executive Director of West and the Chief Operating Officer. Per his wishes, there will be no farewell reception.

### **In Memoriam**

Elizabeth Carwile - November 2

Duane Christensen - November 5

James Spitzer - November 20



## Pest Control Schedule

	Friday, December 1	Friday, December 8	Friday, December 15	Friday, December 22
<b>Tower Apts.</b>	331-338, 341-348, 431-438	411-418, 421-428	511-518, 521-528	531-538, 541-548
<b>Cottages</b>	1700	1800	1900-2000	2100-2200
<b>Specials</b>	Village Center, Kitchen, The Vista Office and A Wing	Exterior of Main Tower Building	Liberty House, The Vista B and C Wings	Freedom House: Int. and Ex.
<b>Ranch Homes</b>	811, 813, 815, 817	821, 823, 825, 826	827, 828, 831, 836	831, 834, 835, 836, Pavilion 1

## Employee Anniversaries

Name	Department	Anniversary Date	Years of Service
Vanessa Dehoyos	Human Resources	December 3	2
Aleisha Dillard	Resident Services	December 4	8
Theresa Villanueva	Hospice	December 5	1
Jacqueline Martinez	EVS Manager	December 6	18
Daniel Golembiewski	Dining Services	December 7	3
Gilbert Lopez	EVS Custodian	December 7	19
Michael Vause	Courtesy Officer	December 16	1
Rebekah Saenz	Dining Services	December 16	1
Betty Martinez	Courtesy Officer	December 19	1
Mary Alice Rangel	Relocation Manager	December 24	4
Maureen Parrish	Director of Compliance	December 24	4
Cynthia Cuellar	EVS Housekeeper	December 28	2
Annabell Garcia	Freedom House	December 29	3
Roberto Corvera	Dining Services	December 29	3



### Do Not Miss the Cox Family Acapella Singers! Sunday, December 10 ~ Beverley Moore

We are blessed this Christmas/Holiday Season to have San Antonio's very own Cox Family Acapella Singers. The Singers have been to BSTW in the past and we have it on good authority it was a wonderful and much appreciated concert. But do not take our word for it, check them out on YouTube and, then, in person here at BSTW on Sunday, **December 10** in the Main Lobby. Cox Family Singers San Antonio Christmas Special Songs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MMYkkdbu6c>



# Resident Updates

## **Concert Series ~ Fidel Exconde**

Sasha Moutouzkine, Chloe and Jean Kiffer returned for their annual October concert with flourish, finesse, and musical frenzy much to the delight of our audience. A repertoire of traditional and contemporary works evoked waves of excitement, solemnity, and pure delight. Pianist Sasha, Violinist Chloe and Saxophonist Jean performed with riveting creativity and virtuosity. A poignant "Concertante for Trio" by Leon Stein, Jewish American composer of Ukrainian ancestry, was the highlight of the concert. The concert was also dedicated to Colonel Joe Mancini on his 96th birthday. Celebratory cakes and refreshments were enjoyed after the concert.

The final concert for this year will feature the San Antonio Brass Quintet on Sunday, **December 3** at 3pm in the Blue Skies West Main Lobby. Yuletide tunes and melodies will lead us into the Christmas season.

## **Activities Coordination Council (ACC)**

### **~ Tom Reedy**

The annual meeting of the Activities Coordination Council (ACC) will be at 9am on Wednesday, **December 6** in the Roadrunner Lounge. All residents are invited to participate in discussions and decisions on the 2024 ACC Budget. A slate of proposed officers for 2024 will also be presented.

## **Village Voices ~ Nancy Sowada**

The Village Voices enjoyed singing at the Follies and Veterans Day programs at Blue Skies West in November. Celebrate the Season is our December program. We hope you will come and enjoy music for Advent, Hanukkah, and Christmas. The Blue Skies East performance is Tuesday, December 5 at 7pm in the CC rooms. The Blue Skies West performance is Thursday, **December 7** at 7:30pm in the main lobby. We are very excited that for the first time in years we have singers in the choir from both campuses! We thank you for your contributions to the AFV Charitable Foundation and the Activities Coordinating Council, which help us to bring you this beautiful music. Join us for Celebrate the Season!

## **Gadabouts ~ Andrea Sandifer**

The Gadabouts Christmas dinner will be held at the historic Liberty Bar on Friday, **December 8**. Meet in the lobby at 4:15pm. The bus will leave promptly at 4:30pm. Liberty Bar offers a delicious, eclectic menu with something to please everyone. Following our meal, we will take a tour of the lights at Incarnate Word and Downtown San Antonio. Gadabouts is open to all singles and caregivers. Look for the pink Gadabouts folder in CC3 and sign up early. We are limited to 16 on the bus. If you miss out, add your name to the waitlist; somebody may drop out. Our January planning meeting for 2024 will be held in the Lakeview on January 12. Keep an eye out for the time.

## **Employee Appreciation Fund – THANK YOU! ~ Lori DeWitt and Danielle Weintraub**

A Hearty and Sincere "Thank You," to all residents who contributed to the Employee Appreciation Fund! Your contributions will be distributed to all BST West hourly staff members on Friday, December 8. Your extra appreciation in December certainly helps our wonderful employees enjoy The Holiday Season! I know I speak for the wonderful men and women who serve you every day when I say your generosity is deeply appreciated.



# Resident Updates

## **Christmas/Holiday Celebration at BSTW Sunday, December 10 ~ Beverley Moore**

The BSTW Holiday/Christmas Party is right around the corner! The Party will be held in the Lobby Sunday evening, **December 10**. Light refreshments will be provided, the winners of the Decorating Competition will be revealed, and a Concert will be presented by the Cox Family Acapella Singers of San Antonio. Bus Tours to view the numerous light displays throughout the campus will begin at 5:30 PM, 1/2 hour before the Party kicks off. Bus Tours will pause at 6:30 PM so we can all enjoy the evening's concert and will resume after the party. Don't let it be said that you missed this night of camaraderie & fun! Join us on Sunday, December 10 between 6 and 8pm for our annual Party and be sure to come early if you want to go on a Bus Tour of the BSTW Season of Lights 2023.

## **Christmas Toy Drive**

Our Blue Skies Protestant Chapel is sponsoring a TOY DRIVE for families facing a serious crisis. The toys will be distributed by Christian Assistance Ministry. People come to CAM in all sorts of crises. This agency has the ability to offer immediate help but they also have relationships with many of the other nonprofits and/or government agencies for longer term assistance. Each year they have a free Christmas Store where parents can come shop for a few gifts for their own children. In today's economy you can imagine trying to squeeze Christmas Gifts into a budget that doesn't reach next payday. Everything has skyrocketed in price-- toys are no different. Let's bring some joy to these families...put a smile on a child's face. We kindly ask that toys be new for children (infants through teens). They can also use new or used Christmas lights, decorations, or gift wrapping. Deadline is Sunday, **December 10**. A huge thanks in advance---our Blue Skies residents are a generous group and Christmas is the season of Giving. Collection boxes are in the lobby. For more information on CAM or the toy drive, call Mary Jane Caudill or Judy Howen.

## **Attention New Residents ~ Judy Howen**

We are excited to have had several new residents move in during the months of October and November. We want to get to know you...to get acquainted...to call you by name. One way we can do that is through the pictures on the Resident Bulletin Board in the main hallway. We'll be taking pictures on Wednesday, **December 13** in the Helen LeMay Room from 4-5:30pm and will add your picture to our growing family. Ellen Alkire will be giving you a call as a reminder. This is our popular December B & A celebration so put on your Christmas plaid, your red and green and we'll snap your photo. (ask your sponsor about the B & A)

## **Handbell Choir ~ Nancy Sowada**

The Blue Skies West Handbell Choir will be playing music for your holiday enjoyment. We will be playing with the Village Voices on the piece called Bell Carol of the Kings which incorporates the beautiful Ukrainian Bell Carol. Our Blue Skies East Handbell performance is Friday, December 8, at 1pm, in the Legacy Room. The Blue Skies West performance is Friday, **December 15**, at 2pm, in the Main Lobby. We thank you for your contributions to the Activities Coordinating Council, which help us to bring you this beautiful music. Please come hear us ring!

## **Traditional Hymn / Carol Sing**

Once again, our Protestant Chapel will be sponsoring the popular traditional hymn/carol sing on Sunday, **December 17** at 3pm. Music is such a big part of Christmas. Somehow lifting ALL our voices in song is a definite "pick me up". Many find great joy in the Christmas rush...others are sometimes lonely and depressed. Either way come and join your Blue Skies family for music, Christmas cookies and hot cider. Invite your neighbor. You'll leave whistling a happy tune!



## Resident Updates

### Season of Lights Bus Tours at BSTW Sunday, December 10 ~ Beverley Moore

Do not miss this year's Bus Tours of our Season of Lights. Buses will run from 5:30-6:30pm and again starting at 7:30pm. Come to the Main Lobby and climb aboard!



### Distinguished Flying Cross Society ~ Bob Certain

DFCS will not meet in December.

### Embracing the Spirit of Giving: Join Us in Lighting Up Lives at Blue Skies of Texas

As the year draws to a close, we at Blue Skies of Texas reflect on the warmth and joy that fills our community every day. As we begin the holiday season, it's a time for celebration, gratitude, and a renewed spirit of giving.

In our vibrant senior living community, we've witnessed countless stories of resilience, connection, and the power of support. As we gather with loved ones to share laughter and create cherished memories, we invite you to consider a gift to benefit our own Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation.

### Celebrate Holiday Season December 13 at B & A

All BST West residents and guests are invited Celebrate the Holiday Season at the Wednesday, **December 13**, Birthdays and Anniversary event. Hosted Social Hour in CC1-3 Rooms begins at 5pm and dinner service in the Lakeview Room is at 6pm. NESAs Bravo Dance Show will be the evening's entertainment. These Northeast Schools performers will pull out all the stops for your enjoyment.

Bob Howen will be available to take the Birthday & Anniversary pictures from 4-5:30 pm in the Helen LeMay Room. Please check in with Judy Howen.

The dinner includes:

Starter: Shrimp Cocktail (3) over Watercress

Entrée: Roast Rack of Lamb with Garlic and Herbs

Dessert: Bread Pudding with Bourbon Sauce

Hard Dinner Rolls

Water, Coffee, or Iced Tea

\$42 Per Person

Alternative: Lobster Tail with Lemon Butter Sauce

Dinner reservations are required. All those planning to attend, including guests, must sign up on the Sign-Up List in CC3. If you need to cancel after 11am Monday, December 11, call the Dining Services Office (210-568-3232). If you wish to create a table of 6-8, call Bonnie Gardner or Donna Bowman. Seating will be assigned for all others. Reservations are not taken through the Dining Room for this event.

Social Hour hosts are Betty Ann Adams, Gary & Ellen Alkire, Jerrold Allen, Jack & Linda Briggs, Pat and Lauraine Caruana, Bonny Conrardy, Jim & Charlotte Cosgrove, Uwe & Brenda Fohlmeister, Rich & Bonnie Gardner, Jerre & Kathy Griffin, Lorrie Hale, Bob & Juanita Hess, Sandra Howard, Veejay Jackson, Annette Johnson, Kip Kiplin, Jerry & Vera Lee, Joel & Jean Lichtenstein, John & Pat MacIntyre, Mike & Karen McGinty, Linda McMillion, John & Eileen Merryman, Evelyn Nettleship, JoAnn Oldham, Corlea Plowman (chair), Stet & Karen Reid, Harlan & Karen Sager, Frieda Schultza, Bruce & Suzanne Smith, Charles & Mary Lou Sneed, Kent & Gerry Williams, Rob Williamson, and Duane & Peggy Young.

# Resident Updates

## Why Your Support Matters ~ Erika Provencher, Director of Development

At Blue Skies of Texas, your donations through the Charitable Foundation play a pivotal role in ensuring the strength of your community while taking care of our own. There are many ways the Charitable Foundation benefits Blue Skies, from helping our residents in need to assisting our employees that make Blue Skies a wonderful home for our residents.

Among many other benefits, your generosity enables us to:

**Provide Discreet Charitable Assistance:** Your support allows us to offer discreet financial assistance to qualified residents, ensuring that no one faces financial hardship in accessing the care and special services they need.

**Enrich Employees' Lives:** Through your donations, our hourly employees benefit from a special Employee Appreciation Fund. Twice a year, these funds enable us to provide bonuses, rewarding the hard work and dedication of our staff. Another valued benefit for all employees is access to help through the Employee Emergency Fund. This funding provides much-needed financial support for employees who need short-term assistance due to an unforeseen financial crisis in their lives.

Every contribution to the Charitable Foundation, no matter the size, is a testament to your belief in the power of community and compassion. Thank you for considering supporting us in our mission to enrich lives and create a haven of warmth and care. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

## Hurricane "Otis" ~ Betty Overacker

On 25 October with minimal publicity, the underestimated strength of Hurricane "Otis" with 165 mph winds demolished all communications, and unleashed a nightmare scenario in Acapulco, Mexico, the home to roughly 800 thousand people. After three weeks of recovery, Amateur Radio Operators are still needed, and remain actively involved in multiple operations to include providing information to state agencies; accomplishing requests to obtain information about relatives; and relaying survivors' messages to individuals regarding their status. Access to many areas remain a challenge due to debris blocking travel. Some Amateur Radio Operators are still operating their equipment on battery power, while others have access to generators. Thank you, Amateur Radio Operators, for always being available instantly to provide needed communication during disasters. All are welcome to the next BST Amateur Radio Club Meeting on Tuesday, **December 19**, in Meeting Room 110 at 11:30am. Please contact Bob Stuckert for more information.

73—(Best regards in Ham Language)

## Girl Scouts

The Girl Scouts will be back to sing Christmas Carols in the BSTW Lobby and Tower Floors from 5-8pm on Wednesday, **December 20**. Call Peggi Parkhill with questions.

## Wreaths Across America ~ Betty Chalfont

Thank you to residents of Blue Skies of Texas, West and East Campuses, for all your generous support of Wreaths Across America.

What a gift to honor family members, friends and veterans in this touching tribute.

Hopefully, you will have an opportunity to visit Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery during the holidays. It is a sight to behold.



# Resident Updates

## **Blue Skies of Texas West Color Guard is Formed ~ Jim Conner**

Blue Skies West had a standing room only Veteran's Day ceremony to honor all Veterans past, present and future. Jack Briggs was the Master of Ceremonies; Ginger Jones organized a color guard, (the only retirement community we know of with its own Color Guard) and also a display of flags of each service presented by a resident from that service. The Village Voices, led by Nancy Sowada, sang patriotic and service songs and ended with a beautiful version of "echo taps". Pastor Gil Richardson gave the blessings, Jim Phelps read the names of the veterans who had been "promoted to Glory" this past year while Betty Overacker rang the bell after each name, and Jerre Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance with a short history of it and the proper salutes. It is being sent to Touchtown so that those not present can read it. It was the birthday of the Marines so they were being especially honored. Tom Craig gave a stirring speech about the courage and fighting spirit of the Marines in previous wars. A copy of his speech is also being sent to Touchtown so that those not present can read it. It was an excellent account, spoken with true feeling.

Jim Conner ended the ceremony with heartfelt thanks to all who participated, including Lori DeWitt and crew, Larissa Alejo and crew, and Broadway Bank which provided a special cake.



If you would like pictures from this event, contact Dottie Conner.

## **LOOSE THREADS (Quilting/Sewing)**

**~ Barbara Folkson**

Happy Holidays! We are taking December off and will meet again in January. Details to follow in January's Roadrunner. We have donated 65 quilts and 25 knitted/crocheted baby blankets to Threads of Love. There is a woman who lives nearby who will come and pick up our finished projects. Please hold onto your finished quilts and/or blankets until our January meeting.

## **Wishing you Happy Holidays**

**~ AFVCF Development Office**

From all of us at Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation, we extend our warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments. May the spirit of the holidays bring you happiness and peace.

## **Thank You ~ Ann Christensen**

Thank you for the many direct expressions of sympathy, cards, hugs, and cries with me upon the death of my husband Chris. Thanks to Chris' male friends who have offered the "show you how to" support when I might not know how. A special thanks to my girlfriends who made it a mission to be sure I was eating. For all of this support, I am so grateful!

## **Appreciation**

The family of Col Bill Wilkins, USAF (Ret.), Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with Cluster recipient, Korea, appreciates the care and kindness of BSTW residents, staff and employees. Bill enjoyed serving on the Resident Finance Committee, 3 years on DRAC and 3 years on Resident Council. Thank you, Caroline Wilkins and family.





# Resident Updates

## DRAC ~ Leo Bell

The Dining Room Advisory Committee (DRAC) held its election for committee leadership for the 2024 year. Re-elected by acclamation are Ron Miller as Webmaster, Nancy Reeder as Secretary, Sandi Snyder as Vice-Chair, and Leo Bell, Jr. as Chair. With our team intact, we look forward to another fantastic, progressive year together.

The DRAC of Blue Skies of Texas-West (BSTW) has just celebrated another Thanksgiving. Much gratitude to our residents for their support. Please review last month's Roadrunner and refresh on the DRAC 2023 accomplishments. We get things done well!!

We must highlight the contributions of one particular resident to our dining experience. Ever wonder how those springs of mint, parsley, and herbs came to be on and in our B&A meals and Lakeview miracles? Resident Tom McKenzie and his money, talents, sweat, and skills are the answers.

A bit of history as to how the Herb Garden came to be. Founded in 2021, by a collaboration among Lori DeWitt, Chef Guy Fanelli, and Tom McKenzie, this in-house source provides fresh parsley, chives, sage, thyme, oregano, basil & Thai basil, and mint. Tom volunteered to be the planter and curator. At a recent Coffee-with-the Chef gathering a question was asked "How frequently are these herbs used in our BSTW kitchen?". Guy's answer was "Everyday!!". We all benefit from Tom's efforts in our Garden. Thank you, Tom, our Chefs, and all the cooking staff for improving our dining experiences.

Stellar performances by our December Front-of-the House (FOTH) winner Frailen "Mr. Potato Salad" Vallejo and our Back-of-the-House winners (the Bistro Crew) Wilma "Everything-on-it" Jones, Dee "Cupcake" McDonald, and Yvonne "Rincon" Doerfler garnered well deserved praise.

Caitlin Brennen was awarded a BSTW Dining Challenge Coin for her remarkable service while seating and managing our Lakeview diners. Thank you, Caitlin! Judith, Mo and company will maintain your high standards.

Man Jones' suggestion at Coffee-with the Chef to have calamari as a grill entrée HAPPENED. The Calamari Pop-up was a great success. Thank you, Chefs Brad and Frank and the grilling crew. Let's keep this calamari thing going!

Please join us at the December Coffee (et al) on Thursday, **December 7** at 9:30am. That is the same day as our Kitchen tour at 2pm.

Nikki has more tour dates for next year. The next tours will be Wednesdays, January 24 and February 21, 2024 both at 2pm. Juanita Hess runs our waiting listing and scheduling. You can contact Juanita using the Touchtown's Resident Directory, or view the paper copy at the Front Desk.

Our next DRAC meeting is Thursday, **December 14** at 1:30pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. May we have a hugely prosperous New Year. Our DRAC team looks forward to many more successes for you.



# Resident Updates

## Library News

### ~ Barbara Folkson & Peggy Durack

We want to thank all the residents who have donated books, DVD's, audiobooks, magazines & music CD's to the library. We also want to thank the Activities Council (ACC) for approving our budget request to purchase large print books and large print version of Readers Digest. All benefit, both residents and employees. We have a loyal group of volunteers that help shelve books and keep the shelves straightened. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Barbara Folkson or Peggy Durack (contact information is in the directory).

The following are new books to our libraries

Blessing of the Lost Girls (J. A. Jance)  
Large Print: The Exchange (Grisham; sequel to The Firm); Blood Lines (DeMille); Bright Lights, Big Christmas (Andrews)

### Liberty House

Shattered (Large Print; Patterson);  
State of Terror (Clinton & Perry; Saving Savannah (Callahan); 6:20 Man (Baldacci); Phone Call from Heaven (Albom)

### MOAA Meet and Greet ~ Jim Conner

The President of MOAA, Lt Gen Brian Kelly, will visit Blue Skies on Thursday, January 11. A "Meet and Greet" is planned for 9-11am in the Roadrunner Lounge at Blue Skies West. He will also speak at the Alamo Chapter Luncheon at the Fort Sam Golf Club on that date. Please mark your calendar for these events; more details will follow as we get closer to the date. Contact Dan Van Syoc or Jim Conner for information.

## BSTW Kitchen Herb Garden ~ Tom McKenzie

The BSTW Kitchen Herb Garden, founded in 2021, by collaboration between Lori DeWitt, Chef Guy Fanelli and Tom McKenzie, who has volunteered the planting and care of the Garden, is completing its third year supplying the Lakeview Kitchen with fresh herbs. If you have noticed the addition of fresh Parsley, Chives, Thyme, Oregano, Basil, Thai Basil, and Mint on your plate, it most likely



came from the Herb Garden. At a recent discussion, during Coffee with the Chef, one of the questions was, how often does the kitchen use herbs from the garden, The Chef answered "every day".



Shown in the picture is the planter in the patio outside of CC-3 which is in full production of Parsley (foreground), Thyme, Chives,

Oregano, Thai Basil and Basil, both heavily harvested, and Mint. All are labeled for identification. In addition to this planter are two planters outside CC-1 One of which has some Thyme, Sage, and Basil.

Rains just after planting flooded that planter destroying over 100 plants forestalling full production because funds were not available to replace the ones that were flooded. A third Planter has Jalapeño and cayenne peppers.



# Resident Updates

## New Year's Eve Party! ~ Layne Perelli

Your Entertainment Committee has planned an exciting New Year's Eve Gala so you can ring in 2024 in glamorous style with all your friends from Blue Skies.



Feel free to salute the occasion in your most elegant, formal attire.

Celebrate early with the New York City Ball Drop at 11pm, or dance the night away until San Antonio ushers in the New Year at Midnight. Alternatively, just pop in anytime for a quick glass of bubbly. We encourage all residents, singles as well as couples, to join in the festivities!

A wide variety of musical styles will be performed for your listening and dancing pleasure by the fabulous Triple T Band until 12:30am.

Doors will open in The Lakeview Dining Hall and Road Runner for decorating tables and setting up your drinks and snacks at 4pm. Festivities start at 8pm. Live music starts at 8:30pm. Everyone attending must be signed up by Wednesday, **December 27**. Sign up in CC3 starts Sunday, **December 3**.

Anyone can host a table and organize up to 16 guests (or more) of their choosing. Just make sure all names are listed on your signup sheet.

Or, if you prefer, sign up to sit at one of the several open tables that will be available. Call Layne Perelli if you would like to make arrangements for a larger group, or for more information.



## Open House

Mary and Dave Root are pleased to announce an Open House in the Roadrunner Lounge on Tuesday, **January 2** from 3-5pm to celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary. No presents please.

## For Your Information ~ Carol Conkey

The current issue of the Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine has an article about free park passes for military affiliation.  
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?nrspan=All&nrtype=all&nrsearch=state+park&page=32>

## Thank you, B&A Sub-Committees ~ Donna Bowman & Bonnie Gardner

The monthly B&A celebrations are the collaborative work of many, quietly working, behind the scenes. As our year comes to a close, we would like to send a HUGE thank you to all the B&A Sub-Committee Chairs and their committee for all they've done each month (all month) to make our B&As run smoothly. When you see them, please express your appreciation for all the time and hard work they've put into each month's celebration. It truly takes a Village!

Anniversary Mementos - Nancy Reeder  
Anniversary Biographies - Phyllis Lubbers  
Computer Support - Alan Wesson  
Entertainment - Marcia Tinsley  
Menu - Vivian Ray  
Music - Marty Frazee  
Photos - Bob & Judy Howen  
Publicity - Corlea Plowman  
Reception - Geri Martin  
Sound - Dan Taylor  
Table Numbers & Chimes - Mark & Sandra Davis



# Sports, Games, & Scores

## Bridge Results ~ Stu Flood

Bridge Results Early November, 2023. The picture is of the Monday, November 6 game. We had 5 full tables. We play Mondays and Thursdays plus a Duplicate game on the third Tuesday of the month. Sign up books are in CC1. This is a social group.



	1	2	3	4
<b>Thursday, November 2</b>	Wesson / Bader	Cowan / Cowan	Gant / Higginbotham	
<b>Monday, November 6</b>	Baden / Reedy	Wood / Tuule	Gant / Higginbotham	Flood / Padgett
<b>Monday, November 13</b>	Fair / Graves	Laydon / G. Skucas	Flood / Cole	

## Tennis & Pickleball ~ Linda Prose



Our Tennis and Pickleball courts offer a great opportunity for fun and exercise. Please come out and join us for Tennis on Monday and Friday mornings and for Pickleball on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. My phone number is in the Resident Directory. See y'all out there!

## Bunco ~ Betty Chalfont

The Ladies Bunco group meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:30pm in CC3. Bring \$1 for the "pot." A group of ladies meet beforehand at 5pm in the Roadrunner Lounge and enjoy dinner together in the Lakeview before Bunco. We would love for you to join us early to eat at 5pm, followed by Bunco at 6:30pm.

### Winners for November

Annie Moore, JoAnn Oldham,  
Ann Wood, Betty Chalfont



# Sports, Games, & Scores

## Seasoned Soles ~ Pat and John MacIntyre

*Photos by Lu Schuster*

The Seasoned Soles finished the month of October with Pat Perry participating in the Rocky Horror Trail Run at McAllister Park.

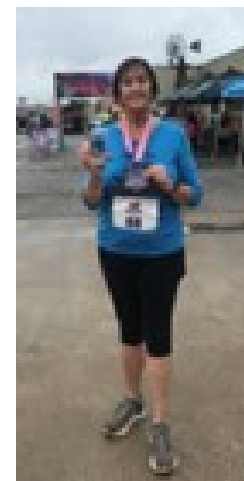
We began the month of November with runners in two different races on the 4th of November.

First was the Battle of Leon Creek which was both a 5K and a Ten-Miler. The races began near the UTSA campus and ran along the Leon Creek Greenway. Pat MacIntyre ran the 5K and won an award for her age group. John MacIntyre ran the ten-miler also winning an award for his age group. His award was easier than Pat's, since John was the only runner in his age group.

Pat Perry and John Paul Sullivan participated in a separate race that same day and trekked through the trails of the Government Canyon Recharge Run looking for dinosaur tracks. John Paul completed the 8K race and Pat Perry finished the 15K race. They found the tracks and met a dinosaur.

The following week Pat Perry ran Ranger Creek Brewery Veterans 5K, which featured a sample of Ranger Creek beers as part of the race.

Late in November, as a preemptory strike against calories, Lu Schuster and John MacIntyre will be running the Marine Corps Turkey Trot 10K (virtual) here on the Blue Skies West campus.



**Deadline** for the next Roadrunner is Friday, **December 15**

Send articles to [flyer@blueskiestx.org](mailto:flyer@blueskiestx.org)

**Next Publication Date:** Friday, December 29

2024 Roadrunner deadline will be the 22nd of each month.



# Spiritual News

## Catholic News ~ Rebecca Vallejo

Feast of Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation, Friday, **December 8** – Mass 4pm in the High Flight Chapel

Christmas Day Mass, Sunday, **December 24** – 1pm in the High Flight Chapel

Feast of Mary, Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation – Sunday, **December 31**- 2pm in the High Flight Chapel  
Saturdays - 11am Mass (For Sunday, by special dispensation of the Archbishop) in the High Flight Chapel

Benediction and Adoration – Wednesday, **December 6** immediately following the 9am Communion service led by Deacon Richard.

The Catholic Council wishes to thank the generous donor who brought the chapel a Cope and Humeral for use to honor and praise our Heavenly Father during monthly Benediction and Adoration Service.  
Second Saturday of the Month - Birthdays and Anniversaries will be recognized with a special blessing at Saturday Mass

Saturdays/Sundays - Freedom House: Catholic residents will be visited, beginning about 1:30pm, with Holy Communion and prayers

Wednesdays - 9am, Communion Service led by laity in the High Flight Chapel, unless we have a priest who will celebrate Mass at that time. NO Wednesday Mass in the High Flight Chapel until further notice.

Third Tuesdays – 9am, Catholic Council meets in Conference Room #110. Guests are welcome.

Fridays – Adoration 1-5pm, Blessed Sacrament Chapel  
St. Vincent de Paul, Castroville - First Saturday Donations

Pastoral Care - To meet privately with a priest for Reconciliation or Anointing, please contact Fr. Richard Bendorf (see Resident Directory). Hospitals have a Catholic priest available; ask a staff member to contact him.

Homebound - If you are homebound and unable to attend Mass but would like to receive Holy Communion, you may contact John Siebert or Rebecca Vallejo by phone, text or email, and they will arrange for a Lay Eucharistic Minister to bring the Holy Eucharist to your apartment/cottage (see Resident Directory).

## High Flight Protestant Chapel Services ~ Carmen Perez

### High Flight Protestant Chapel Services

- Sundays 9:30 & 11am - High Flight Chapel
- Sundays 10:30–11am Fellowship time – Main Lobby
- Sundays 10:45am - Freedom House
- Thursdays 10:30am - Liberty House (3rd level)

Our Sunday service is repeated on Wednesdays at 10:30am on Channel 1890. If you are not a Spectrum subscriber, we invite you to view services on the monitors in the Towers lobby.

**Pray For Our Nation** held at 10am on the 1st and 3rd Fridays, in the Helen LeMay Room. All residents are invited to pray for our nation. Please consider joining us.

Advent Devotional Services: The Protestant Church holds special Advent services, which are being held each Wednesday at 10:30am in the High Flight Chapel, beginning Wednesday, **December 6**. A Christmas Eve service (Candlelight, Carols and Communion) will be held at 5pm. All are invited to attend.

We welcome you anytime. If you are interested in joining or wish to speak to one of our pastors; Wayne Knutson, Gil Richardson or Dan Figueroa, please leave a message with the church office (210-568-3372) and they will be in touch.

## Episcopal Church

**Episcopal Services** with the Holy Eucharist continue on Thursdays at 3pm in the High Flight Chapel.