

# FRIDAY FLYER

APRIL 2024

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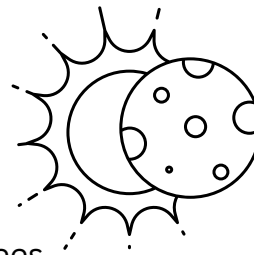
## FROM THE DIRECTOR

April brings with it a sense of renewal and hope, qualities that resonate deeply as we continue to navigate through the construction projects taking place on our campus. Sun Tzu once wisely remarked, "In the midst of chaos, there is opportunity." These words have served as a guiding light while navigating through the challenges and disruptions brought about by ongoing construction. I want to extend my gratitude to each and every one of you for your patience, resilience, and support during this period of transformation. As we progress through April, let us continue to embrace the opportunities that arise from moments of chaos. Let us seize the chance to connect with our neighbors, to foster camaraderie, and to collectively shape the future of our campus.

### Don't Miss the Spectacular Solar Eclipse on April 8th!

On Monday, **April 8**, we will have the opportunity to witness a solar eclipse at Blue Skies of Texas!

To celebrate this remarkable natural phenomenon, we are organizing an event in Heritage Park. Residents and employees will have the chance to step outside and observe the eclipse starting at 12:45 PM. BST will be providing ice cream for all! Glasses are available for purchase at the front desk for \$2!



Maximum Eclipse	1:34:21 PM CDT
End of Partial Eclipse	2:55:45 PM CDT
Obscuration at Maximum	99%
Alt / Azi at Maximum	+68.2° / 179.2°



## SAVE THE DATE:

- Monday, April 1: Legacy Room Renovations Commence
- Tuesday, April 2: OPEN DRAC Meeting, Sky Lounge, 2pm
- Monday, April 8: Solar Eclipse, Heritage Park, 12:45pm
- Tuesday, April 9: BA & NC, Sky Lounge, 5pm (Sign-up in CC1)
- Monday, April 15: Fiesta Celebration and Open House
- Thursday, April 25: COVID Vaccination Clinic, CC1,2,3, 8am
- Thursday, April 25: OPEN RC Meeting, Sky Lounge, 2pm
- Monday, April 29: High-Rise Window Project Starts



# Welcome

## New Residents

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

**Jim Harmon, #300**

**Walter Spratley, #313**

# Resident Services Announcements

**From the Assistant Director**

**~ Andrew Sandler**

“Service to community” is one of the core values of Blue Skies. You moved to Blue Skies because you expect our team of employees to anticipate and meet your needs by providing quality services 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. It is also our goal to provide customer service equal to a five-star hotel.

However, the core value of “service to community” at Blue Skies is more than just the tasks that need to be completed in our employee job descriptions. The community of residents on our campus are unique, smart, talented, and hardworking. You provide services in many important ways such as The White Elephant, sponsoring new residents, sewing on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, participating in the Resident Activity Council, Dining Room Advisory Committee, making sure that religious events take place and so much more. You also help and support each other in times of need. There are very few retirement communities with so many residents who are this service minded. Thank you for all you do!

## **Sky Lounge Dress Code**

The dining services team strives to make your experience in the Sky Lounge equal to the best San Antonio restaurants. We encourage residents to dress for the Sky Lounge as if they were having a meal in one of those restaurants. Appropriate dress includes slacks with sleeves or jackets for men, and slacks, blouses, or dresses for women. Shorts, tank tops, crop tops or tee shirts with inappropriate sayings or images are not in good taste. Please remove hats (exception: religious headwear, headwear for medical reason, or special events). Resident guests are requested to observe these considerations.

## **Fitness Center Parking**

After further review, golf cart owners will be allowed to park their carts in regular parking spaces in front of the Fitness center while they are attending a class or using the gym or pool. Additionally, we kindly request that you refrain from parking your car in front of the fitness center if you plan to use that space while dining at Cochran’s or attending an event in the main building. Thank you for your cooperation!

## **Stray Cats**

Many of you are animal lovers who have compassion for cats and dogs in need of food and a safe place to live. There are, unfortunately, several feral cats who live on our campus without a home, and some of you feed and house these cats out of compassion for their safety. These well-intentioned actions, however, have negative consequences for your neighbors, several of whom brought complaints to resident services. Stray cats may host a range of parasites such as ticks, fleas, worms, and mites. They may also carry serious diseases that are transmittable to other cats and dogs. Besides the associated human and animal health risks, the feeding of stray cats can also cause damage to property by creating unsanitary conditions. Also, it is highly unlikely that these cats are spayed or neutered and could end up producing more feral cats with challenging lives. Feeding feral animals is not permitted at Blue Skies of Texas. If you are currently doing so, we kindly request that you cease. Please ensure all feeding dishes and shelters are removed by April 15th. Any remaining items will be removed by maintenance.

**Deadline** for the next Friday Flyer:  
Monday, **April 22**

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

**Next Publication Date:** Tuesday, **April 30**

# Resident Services Announcements



## This is Not an April Fools Joke! ~ Ashlie Maltos

Have you recently been receiving text messages, calls, or emails from a Bank Institution stating there are fraudulent transactions occurring on your account? You then realize that the Bank that is stated in the text message, email or the “representative” calling is from a Bank that you have never banked with. If you have received any of those messages or calls DO NOT click on the link or say yes. Immediately delete the text message, email, or hang up the phone! This is another form of Phishing that scammers are currently doing to get your money!



## Maintenance Work Order Submittals

If you see something that our team needs to address, please let us know.

- Work Order Desk: 210-568-3261
- Work Order Email: [workorder@blueskiestx.org](mailto:workorder@blueskiestx.org)

## Pest Control

	Thursday, April 4	Thursday, April 11	Thursday, April 18	Thursday, April 25
<b>High Rise</b>	Floors 6 & 7	Floor 8	Floor 9	Floor 10
<b>Midrise</b>	Floor 4	Floor 5	Floor 6	Exterior
<b>Cottages</b>		1754-59		
<b>Hills</b>	San Antonio, Dallas & Austin Exteriors San Antonio Interior	Dallas Interior	Austin Interior	
<b>Specials</b>	Arnold House & Cochran's	Hobby Shop Exterior	MX Exterior	TM, MX, F&V Exterior

## Employee Anniversaries

Name	Department	Anniversary Date	Years of Service
Ilene Kitchens	Sales Counselor	April 6	9
Aaron Montanez	The Mission	April 13	1
Meleia Monsey	Senior Executive Assistant	April 16	6
Andrew Sandler	Assistant Resident Services Director	April 17	1
Heather Ryniker	Director of Finance	April 18	2
Chelsea Huerta	Dining Services	April 19	2
Maria Estrada	EVS Housekeeper	April 23	6
Maria Subirias	EVS Lead at The Mission	April 28	7

# Resident Updates

## Quilters Nook ~ Doris Megonigal

Quilter's Nook is happy to announce that we are resuming our open sew days. Come work on a project, help with a Nook project or just visit.

Open on:

- Tuesdays, starting Tuesday, **April 2**, from 1-3pm
- Thursdays, from 1-3pm. The second Thursday of each month we will be closed.

Questions? Please call Doris (see Resident Roster).

## Resident Activity Council (RAC)

### ~ Stephen Horton

The Resident Activity Council will hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, **April 4** at 1pm in the Sky Lounge. Any and all residents of Blue Skies of Texas East are cordially invited. The council organizes activities suggested by residents and managers some long running activities like the "Birthday, Newcomer, Anniversary" dinners. If you are interested in lending a hand, or have ideas for new activities, please join us.

## Catholic Mass has returned to Blue Skies East

The Catholic Mass schedule for April is below.

Saturday, **April 6** 4pm Vigil Mass

Saturday, **April 13** 4pm Vigil Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Sunday, **April 21** 1pm

Sunday, **April 28** 1pm

Please note the Anointing of the Sick will be held on Saturday, **April 13** after 4pm Mass.

Anyone who is preparing for a serious operation, is suffering from a serious illness as well as the elderly whose frailty has become more pronounced is invited to participate.

## Weapons and Lasers ~ Robert Certain

The Alamo Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society will hold our monthly meeting on Wednesday, **April 10** at 10am in the Roadrunner Lounge at Blue Skies West. This month Pat Caruana will present a program about Weapons and Lasers. All residents of Blue Skies East or West are welcome to attend.

## BSTE Book Club ~ Nancy Sowada

The Blue Skies East Book Club met on Monday, March 18, to discuss Longitude—The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time. Thank you, Larry Rogers, for an excellent discussion of navigation and the tools used to navigate at sea, as well as a discussion of the book.

Our next book club discussion will be on Monday, **April 22**. We will discuss The Beekeeper's Son (The Amish of Bee County Book 1) by Kelly Irvin. Bee County is about 2 hours south of San Antonio. I moved to San Antonio from Beeville, in Bee County. Beeville and Bee County were created and named in honor of Colonel Barnard Elliot Bee, a political leader who had served as Secretary of War under Sam Houston and later, as Secretary of State under Mirabeau B. Lamar during the governmental period of the Republic of Texas. There are also bees and Amish in Bee County. This is a very good novel about the modern-day Amish and Bee County, Texas. I hope you will read the book and join us at 10am on Monday, April 22 for this discussion.

Our other books we have selected to read are as follows:

June 3: The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride.

July 15: Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

August 26: The Bee Sting: A Novel by Paul Murray

October 7: All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

All of these discussions are held on Mondays at 10am in the CC Rooms. Join us!

# Resident Updates

## Honoring Our Veterans ~ Bruce Wilcox

Blue Skies residents have been receiving periodic notices for several months about Burial Services honoring veterans without known relatives at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Given Blue Skies' background, we believe it's our duty to attend and show respect to those who served for us. Unfortunately, the previous notices were too brief to organize transportation and encourage residents to participate. However, Carol Estala has successfully secured enough advanced notice to arrange a bus for these quarterly events. The first one is scheduled for Wednesday, **April 17**. Save the date, be on the lookout for the sign-up notice, and please join us in honoring our veterans.

## Village Voices ~ Nancy Sowada

The Village Voices spring concerts will be Tuesday, **April 30** at 7pm, at Blue Skies East in the CC Rooms and Thursday, May 2 at 7:30pm at Blue Skies West in the Main Lobby. The Village Voices will also be singing at The Mission and Freedom House on May 7 and at Liberty House on May 14. We hope you will join us for a program of music from Broadway shows. Selections from The Sound of Music, Kiss Me Kate, The Music Man, Oklahoma, and many others will be included. We are sure you will hear something you enjoy! We hope you will join us!

## Garden Open House ~ Jim Conner

On Wednesday, **May 1**, from 9-11am, the Blue Skies West Garden Club will host an Open House for staff and residents to view the newly enhanced area and the various vegetables, flowers and fruits grown by residents. Some extra produce and plants will be given away, and there will also be sharing of nutritious drinks like kale smoothies. If you have a favorite vegetable recipe, please bring to share with those who raise and cook their own vegetables and maybe they will have vegetables to share with you.



## Handbells ~ Nancy Sowada

The Blue Skies West Handbells will play at Blue Skies East on Friday, **May 3** at 2pm, in the CC rooms and they will play at Blue Skies West on Friday, May 17 at 2pm in the Main Lobby. In addition, they will play at Freedom House on May 8 and Liberty House on May 10. We have increased the number of handbell players and the number of handbells we are playing. In addition, we have incorporated some new (to us) techniques. We will be playing a wide variety of music including America the Beautiful, the Overture from Music for Fireworks by G.F. Handel, Largo from The New World Symphony by Antonin Dvorak, and The Mexican Hat Dance! We are sure you will enjoy the music! Join us!

## In Memoriam

Margaret Marton March 5  
Dawn Neumann March 15  
Ruth Salyer March 15  
Sheila Palmmini March 18

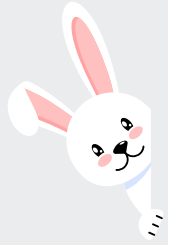
# Resident Updates

## DRAC - Dining Room Advisory Council ~ Carol Hernandez, Chair

[DRAC.BSTE@outlook.com](mailto:DRAC.BSTE@outlook.com)

Upcoming DRAC meetings are

- Tuesday, **April 2** at 2 pm in the Sky Lounge
- Tuesday, **May 7** at 2 pm in the Sky Lounge



On the 3rd weekend of April (Friday and Saturday, **April 19 and 20**) the Chef will again have a special menu in the Sky Lounge for our Destination Dining. We hope your pallet is ready to experience foods from the Germany. The regular Sky Lounge menu will not be available those nights. The proposed menu will be posted at Cochran's and under Dining Services' BSTE Menu section in the TouchTown app by Friday, April 5.

We recently had inquiries about non-alcoholic beverage choices. Along with the sodas and iced tea you have several other offerings. There is O'Doul's non-alcohol beer. For the non-alcohol wine selection there are Freixenet Rose, Ariel (white wine), and Freixenet White Bubbles that are available for you to enjoy. Yolanda is still working on getting a few more non-alcohol selections. We need our residents' support in following our reservation guidelines and making a reservation for Friday or Saturday dinner and Sunday brunch.

- ResEasy assigns the window tables first for the tables of 4 and 2. Therefore, if you want a window table, you need to get your reservation early.
- Show up about five minutes before your reservation time. If we can seat you, we will. If earlier than that, you're more than welcome to wait in the bar. (Seating you too early disrupts the service of others.)
- If you are responsible for making a reservation for more than yourself, then you are responsible for ensuring that your party shows up.
- If you're more than 15 minutes late for your reservation we will accommodate you as soon as a table is available.
- If you don't have a reservation, you can ask the hostess if something will be available for you. If there will be an available slot, we will ask you to wait in the bar or come back at a specific time.
- If you must cancel your reservation, please cancel at least 48 hours (about 2 days) in advance as we sometimes must stop taking reservations as time slots are full and we may end up turning away another resident.

In March table service started on Tuesday evenings at Cochran's. This Tuesday evening table service will continue through April.

During our April meeting we will give a brief demonstration of how to use the TouchTown App to do your bulk orders. This will allow you to submit orders directly and not have to use the paper format. However, the paper format is still available for you.

DRAC lost a very special lady, Dawn Neumann, in March. Nancy Smith will complete Dawn's term that closes at the end of November. Nancy recently finished a term and is familiar with our procedures.