

FRIDAY FLYER

MAY 2024

VOLUME 2024-05



FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we bask in the beauty of May and the blossoms that are beginning to adorn the East campus, I am filled with a sense of joy and anticipation for the month ahead. It brings me great pleasure to share with you some exciting updates from our community.

First and foremost, I am thrilled to announce the completion of the high rise renovations. The newly refurbished spaces now stand as a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team and the expertise of the contractors. I am truly delighted by the transformation, and I hope you all find as much joy in the refreshed surroundings as I do.

In addition to the High-Rise renovations, I am pleased to report that progress is well underway in the Legacy Room.

Demolition has begun, marking the start of a journey toward a space that will honor our community's legacy while embracing the promise of the future. Collaborations with designers are progressing smoothly, and I am excited to see the vision for this space come to life.

Our community's growth extends beyond physical transformations. Over the past month, I have had the pleasure of working with many resident clubs that have been revitalized with renewed energy and enthusiasm. It warms my heart to see residents coming together, not only to enrich their own lives but also to give back to the wider community through volunteering and charitable efforts.

As we embark on this new month, I am filled with gratitude for the journey thus far and excitement for the opportunities that lie ahead. May is a time of renewal and growth, and I have no doubt that it will bring even more blessings and opportunities for the East campus.

SAVE THE DATE:

Tuesday, May 7: DRAC Meeting, Sky Lounge, 2pm

Friday, May 10: Springtime Market Day Event, CC Rooms, 9am

Monday, May 13: Valley Hi HOA Meeting, CC Rooms, 7pm

Tuesday, May 14: BA & NC Dinner, Sky Lounge, 5pm - Please sign up in CC1

Friday, May 17: Recognition of Armed Forces Day, Main Lobby, 1:30pm

Friday, May 24: Memorial Day BBQ, Heritage Park, 11:30am

Thursday, May 30: State of the Village, CC Rooms, 10am

Please note there will not be an RC meeting for the month of May.

Welcome

New Residents

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

Pam Matlock, #600/01

Russ & Marilyn Westcott, #811/13



Resident Services Announcements

Transition in the Beauty Salon

Jackie Cotton, our Beauty Salon Manager of seven years, has unexpectedly resigned and her departure has left us in a challenging position. Jackie's presence and expertise will be deeply missed at Blue Skies of Texas East, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Our stylist, Gina Trevino, will be returning during the second week of May. Gina has been an invaluable member of our team, and her return will help ease the impact of Jackie's departure. However, I ask for your patience and understanding during this time of adjustment.

In the interim, the West Campus has graciously offered to provide salon services to our residents. While this may entail some inconvenience, please know that we are doing everything possible to ensure continuity of care and service for you, our valued residents.

Ensuring Resident Safety: A Reminder and Assurance

Many of you were witness to an incident involving a volatile former employee. Please rest assured that the safety and well-being of our residents are our top priorities. My staff and I are committed to taking all necessary measures to address and prevent such situations in the future.

I urge all residents to prioritize their safety and refrain from getting involved in confrontational situations. If you ever find yourself confronted with aggression or violent behavior, please do not hesitate to call for assistance immediately. Your safety is paramount, and we are here to support you in any way we can.

As we navigate these challenges together, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your understanding, patience, and continued support. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.



From Assistant Director Andrew Sandler

TouchTown Community App

The TouchTown Community App has been rebranded as **Uniguest Community Apps**.

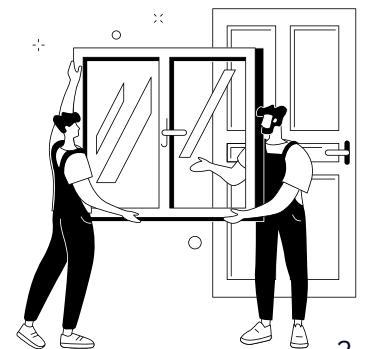


Uniguest
Community Apps

There are no feature changes within this update that should affect the way you use this app. Please contact Andrew Sandler if you are having any problems with this transition. Also, we are encouraging residents to put their photo and profile information in the Resident Directory. Please contact Andrew if you need assistance with this.

Window Project

Resident windows on the 6th, 7th and 8th High-Rise floors are being replaced by Alliance Glazing Technologies. The new windows will reduce outside noise and will eliminate water leaking into rooms from severe storms. Work on this project began on April 29th and is scheduled to be completed in June. The window replacement schedule is fluid. We will communicate with residents in advance when there is a change in that schedule.



Resident Services Announcements

Pool and Spa

The pool and spa are important components of our fitness program. It is necessary that they work properly so you are safe and comfortable. The pool is scheduled to be cleaned every Wednesday from 1pm – 2:30pm. Maintenance also regulates chlorine levels on a regular basis. Please do not place “out of order” signs in the pool area. Contact Hope Santos or Resident Services whenever you notice something that needs to be addressed and the necessary action will be taken promptly. Spa controls are easy to use. They are located on the wall to the right of the spa approximately 10 feet away. Set the timer to the amount of time you plan to be in the spa. It is sometimes necessary to wait a short while before the jets turn on.

Employee Appreciation Fund

~ BST East 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, they will be included in your annual statement of donations. 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 (with the exception of Beauty Salon employees, the only employees allowed to receive tips). Your check must be received at the Front Desk no later than Friday, **May 31** by the end of the day. Checks should be made payable to Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation (or its initials, AFVCF) and marked for Employees’ Appreciation Fund. Thank you.

Play for Freedom – Thank You!

~ Daniel Garcia Casillas

Thank you to all who supported the 30th Annual Play for Freedom Golf Tournament at The Quarry Golf Course on Friday, March 22! With amazing generosity from corporate sponsors, individual supporters, hole sponsors, gift donors, and 132 golfers, it was a great day for our guests and a great day for Freedom House. With the help of many friends, over \$165,000 was raised to benefit memory care programs at Blue Skies. A total of 10 residents participated this year. Congratulations to the Blue Skies Resident team of Mr. Gerhard Frisch, CMDR Ronald Miller, and Mr. Jim Cosgrove, as they join the Resident Winners’ Circle and have “braggin’ rights” for a year!

Please mark your calendars for our 31st Annual Play for Freedom Golf Tournament at The Quarry Golf Course on Friday, **March 21, 2025**. We look forward to your continued support.

Older American Month (OAM)

Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads the nation’s observance of Older American Month (OAM). The 2024 theme is Powered by Connection. Here at Blue Skies of Texas we see so many powerful senior citizens and it reminds us, each and every day, that age is just a number. During this month we would like to encourage and inspire you to share what connection means to you in social media using the hashtags #PoweredByConnection and #BlueSkiesofTexas. This month at BST we will be celebrating OAM with a variety of events and activities. Please look for events in the newsletters, they will be noted with the title OAM Event.

Resident Services Announcements

This Spring don't let Scammers Spring One on You... ~ Ashlie Maltos

Scammers posing as Spectrum are targeting customers with a 50% discount offer on their monthly bill for cable services over a 12-month period, which can only be activated by purchasing Target Gift Cards. This is part of a known fraud scam targeting Spectrum customers. Using all lines of communication, from text messages to phone calls and emails, scammers are offering to reduce your service cost by 50% for this Target Gift Card Offer Fraud Scheme. It may sound convincing, but it's not a valid offer from Spectrum. Spectrum will never ask you to pay your bill by gift cards (e.g. Target gift card), wire transfer, cryptocurrency, payment apps (Venmo, Zelle, CashApp, PayPal), or offer a discounted rate for a fee.



What you should do: Avoid responding to any text messages, phone calls and/or emails that sound "too good to be true". Never provide your personal account or payment information.

Here's how it works:

1. The scammer contacts you by SMS (text) or voicemail, posing as Spectrum and stating they have applied a 50% discount to your monthly bill.
2. The scammer will direct you to a phone number to call for you to keep the 50% discount offer.
3. Once you respond by calling the number, you'll be greeted by a live fraudster representative, who will ask you for the mobile phone number that received the text or voice call and your account information.
4. The scammer then will contact Spectrum Customer Care posing as you and using the info you provided to retrieve your Spectrum account billing information.
5. The scammer will then provide you with your account balance and present the 50% offer on cable services over a 12-month period, which can only be activated by purchasing a Target Gift Card or VISA Reward Card.
6. The scammer will direct you to ANY convenience store to make this purchase.
7. If you agree to this offer, you will receive a SMS communication on how to provide the Target Gift Card information to a fraudulent "Third-Party Vendor" to fulfill the agreement.
8. At this point, you'll have been scammed out of your money, as well as involved in a Gift Card scam.

In Memoriam

Frank Lollar - March 29

Lt Col Robert "Bob" Lamb - March 30

Maj Donald Eshelman - April 11

Mark Steege - April 12

Deadline for the next Friday Flyer:

Wednesday, **May 22**

Send articles to flyer@blueskiestx.org

Next Publication Date: Friday, **May 31**

Resident Services Announcements

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

Pest Control:

Services are accomplished four weeks per month

	Thursday, May 2	Thursday, May 9	Thursday, May 15	Thursday, May 22
High Rise	Floors 1 & 2	Floor 3	Floor 4	Floor 5
Midrise	Floor 1	Floor 2	Floor 3	
Cottages		1748-1750		
Hills				
Specials	Arnold House Interior & Exterior Bistro Interior & Exterior	Hobby Shop Exterior	MX Exterior	Main Kitchen/Dining MX Interior H-R, M-R, The Mission, Fitness, Hobby Shop Exteriors



Employee Anniversaries

Name	Department	Anniversary Date	Years of Service
Jacquelyn Ramos	Finance Account Manager	2-May	2
Betty Gutierrez De La Cruz	EVS at The Mission	3-May	2
Kurt Riedel	The Mission	5-May	10
Alma Diaz	The Mission	10-May	3
Dolores Zertuche	The Mission	12-May	26
Nicole Cerda	Arnold House	12-May	7
Roseanne Esparza	Desk Clerk	27-May	8
Gloria Favella	EVS Housekeeper	31-May	1
Juliana Escarpita	EVS Custodian	31-May	1

Resident Updates

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.

Freedom House Support Group

The Freedom House Support Group will meet on Thursday, **May 2** at 1:30pm in the Freedom House Chapel. Residents from East and West campus are invited. If you have loved ones residing in Freedom House or are at home caring for loved ones with memory problems, please join us.

Village Voices ~ Nancy Sowada

The Village Voices began their spring performance schedule on Tuesday, April 30, at Blue Skies East. We will perform on Thursday, May 2, at 7:30 pm at Blue Skies West in the Main Lobby. The Village Voices will also be singing at The Mission and Freedom House on Tuesday, May 7 and at Liberty House on Tuesday, May 14. We lost our accompanist, Judy Hooge, to health problems, and we welcome Geoffrey Waite as our accompanist this spring. We had to be flexible with rehearsals, and we are sure you will enjoy our program of music from Broadway shows including Annie Get Your Gun, Les Misérables, South Pacific and more! We are so appreciative of your donations to the Blue Skies West Activities Coordinating Council and the Air Force Village Charitable Fund. Your donations help us purchase new music and pay our accompanist and director. Thank you! Please join us for our performances in May!

Blue Skies Handbells ~ Nancy Sowada

The Blue Skies West Handbells look forward to seeing you at Blue Skies East on Friday, **May 3**, at 2pm, in the CC Rooms and at Blue Skies West on Friday, May 17, at 2pm in the Main Lobby. In addition, we will play at Freedom House on Wednesday, May 8 and Liberty House on Friday, May 10. Our program includes a wide variety of music from American, English, and German folk songs to classical music pieces and patriotic music. We use a variety of different bell playing techniques which we will show you. After our performances in May, we will take a break from rehearsals until August. We are so appreciative of your donations to the Blue Skies West Activities Coordinating Council. Your donations help us keep our bells in good working order and help us to purchase new music. Thank you! Please join us for our performances in May!

In-flight Aerial Photography ~ Robert Certain

The Alamo Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society will hold our monthly program on Wednesday, **May 8** at 10am in the Roadrunner Lounge at Blue Skies of Texas West. John Shore's son Michael is a professional photographer. For ten years his focus was aviation, primarily civilian aviation, and the airshow profession. He was identified as one of the five best aviation photographers in the industry. This opened the door to new opportunities photographing some of the best aerobatic performers and performances in the United States.

John will tell their story and show some amazing photos taken from their A-36 Bonanza platform. The talk will feature videos and photos taken at Oshkosh as well as other airshows or practice facilities. All residents of Blue Skies East or West and their guests are welcome to attend.

Resident Updates

White Elephant Thrift Shop

~ Ricci Fitzpatrick

The White Elephant Thrift Shop is pleased to announce the Grand Opening of The Closet, our new clothing store! The Grand Opening will take place on Friday, **May 10**. All clothing currently in the main store will be moved to The Closet. We hope customers enjoy the new displays with many more clothing items available for women and men, organized to make your shopping experience fun. The Closet is located at the 2nd door on the right in the hall leading to the Furniture Store. Remember Sunday, May 12 is Mother's Day! We have many gifts available. The White Elephant Thrift Shop, Furniture Store, and The Closet are open 9-11:30am on Fridays, and from 1-3pm on Saturday, **May 11** and Saturday, May 25.

Donations may be dropped off on Thursdays from 1-3pm in the donation room across the hall from the Thrift Shop.

The White Elephant has Lay-Away available. Items must be paid for in full and picked up within 60 days. Gift Certificates for any amount are also available that are good for 90 days after purchase. Remember, the White Elephant accepts cash, personal checks, credit and debit cards, Cash App, and other touch-pay options. We thank all our generous donors as proceeds from White Elephant sales are used for BSTE resident betterment.

Blue Skies East Book Club ~ Nancy Sowada

The Blue Skies East Book Club had an interesting discussion on April 22 about the novel, *The Beekeeper's Son* (The Amish of Bee County Book 1) by Kelly Irvin. Bee County is about 2 hours south of San Antonio. There is a community of Amish people who live there and this book is a very good novel about the Amish and Bee County. The next book we are reading is *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride.

We will discuss this book on Monday, **June 3** at 10am in the CC Rooms.

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store is a historical fiction/mystery novel by James McBride. The novel is set in Chicken Hill, a Pennsylvania neighborhood where Jewish and Black communities coexist amidst racial tensions. The story revolves around a skeleton found in an old well in 1972, which unravels the hidden secrets of the community. The novel is set in the 20s and 30s and centers around the Jewish-owned Heaven and Earth Grocery store in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The book is a winner of the National Book Award and other awards. We look forward to an interesting discussion.

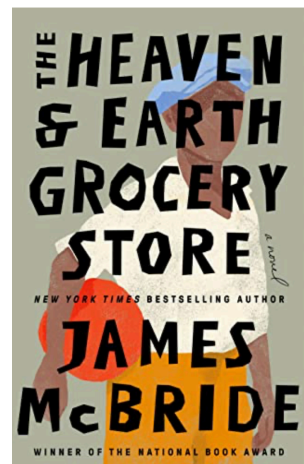
Our other selected books and dates are:

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 are on Mondays at 10am in the CC Rooms.



Catholic Mass Schedule for May

Saturday, **May 4** - Confession at 3pm, Mass at 4pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday, **May 12**, 1pm

Saturday, **May 18**, 4pm (Vigil Mass)

Saturday, **May 25**, 4pm (Vigil Mass)

Please note that only one Mass will be on a Sunday at 1pm. The others will be Vigil Masses on Saturdays at 4pm. Confession is scheduled before Mass on Saturday, May 4 at 3pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Dining Room Advisory Council (DRAC) ~ Carol Hernandez, Chair

DRAC.BSTE@outlook.com

Upcoming DRAC meetings are

- Tuesday, **May 7** at 2 pm in the Sky Lounge
- Tuesday, **June 4** at 2pm in the Sky Lounge

May brings with it several special dining dates:

- Wednesday, **May 1** – Cochran’s has an expanded water and iced tea station set up for residents to get their own water or iced tea. If you want iced tea, order from the register, and pick up your iced tea. As always, if you need assistance in getting your water or iced tea, please ask a server.
- Wednesday, **May 1** – Cochran’s has only the “Anytime Menu”, which will be available from 2-4pm in the afternoon.
- Saturday, **May 11** – Sky Lounge is closed for preparation for Mother’s Day. Regular menu until 6pm in Cochran’s.
- Sunday, **May 12** – Mother’s Day Brunch in Sky Lounge. Reservations required by using ResEasy, calling 210-568-5173 or emailing bstefoodreservations@blueskiestx.org.
- Friday and Saturday, May 17 and 18 – Destination Dining in Sky Lounge – England
- Friday, **May 24** – Blue Skies Memorial Day Barbeque at lunch time. Cochran’s will be closed after breakfast.
- Sunday, **May 26** – Special Memorial Day Menu at Cochran’s at lunch. Cochran’s closes at 2pm

On the 3rd weekend is our Destination Dining menu in the Sky Lounge. This weekend you will experience food from England. 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 Uniguest (formerly TouchTown) app by Friday, **May 3**.

Continued on next page...



Dining Room Advisory Council (DRAC) ~ Carol Hernandez, Chair

We need you to be more mindful in Cochran's to help staff fulfil their main obligation of taking orders, getting food to residents, and clearing tables. (We understand that some of these requests are not workable for those with mobility issues and they will be happy to assist you.)

- Know what you want before entering the line to order. Daily specials are posted on the board outside of Cochran's.
- If you want ketchup. Mustard or mayonnaise please request otherwise we will not provide.
- Use the water decanters that are in both dining sections to get refills.
- If you decide upon after finishing your meal that you want dessert, please go back to the front counter to see what is available and order.
- If having a straw and a small napkin is important to you. Please grab them while you are headed to your table. (Please realize that many of us don't want these products Therefore, this is your preference.)
- Retrieve own to-go container from central table

Remember that if you are ordering a hamburger, chicken strips, steak, etc., that these items are freshly prepared and cooked. Realize you will need to wait approximately 20 minutes for them to be prepared and fully cooked once they get to your order. Therefore, any of these are not the best choice if you have a short dining window that day.

Please note the following if you are placing a preorder takeout or requesting food delivery.

Cochran's

Cochran's (Lunch) takeout/delivery should be in by 10am

Cochran's (Dinner) takeout/delivery should be in by 3pm Mon-Thurs

Sky Lounge Dinner (Fri. & Sat.)

Please place your food takeout order from 4:30-5pm in the Sky Lounge Bar area.

If you would like a delivery, please have your delivery order in by in by 3pm

Sky Lounge Brunch (Sun.)

Please place your food takeout order from 10:30-11amin the Sky Lounge Bar area.

If you would like a delivery, please have your delivery order in by in by 10am

Please call 210-568-5173 (MESSAGE LINE) for all dining call-ahead or delivery. There is a \$3.00 Delivery Fee.

