

ROADRUNNER

APRIL 2024

VOLUME 2024-04



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Gate Codes

On Wednesday, **May 1** we will disable the codes to enter the Gates. The sensors/remotes will still allow entry and you/your guests can still call the Front Desk for entry from the Gates. This enhanced security will prevent the sharing of the codes with individuals not authorized to use it.

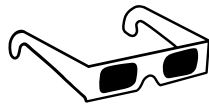
Pet Policy

An updated Pet Policy is available for review in the binder titled "*Policies and Procedures of Persons Served*" in the Library area located immediately behind The Bistro.

Maintenance

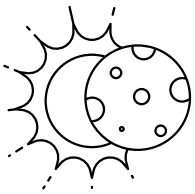
LaVerne Fierro will start officing at the West Campus in the Maintenance office starting Monday, **April 1**.

BST ECLIPSE EVENT!



The eclipse will begin in San Antonio around 12:14 pm, peak at 1:33 pm, and then conclude at 2:55 pm. San Antonio will fall in the path of totality. BSTW will celebrate this event with residents and employees.

Come join us at the Gazebo for ice cream and the eclipse beginning at 12:45pm. A limited number of Eclipse glasses are still for sale at the Front Desk (we've already sold over 250).



Save the Date:

- Monday, April 1 - AFIO Meeting - Roadrunner Lounge - 12pm
- Thursday, April 4 - FBI Presentation - Roadrunner Lounge - 10am
- Monday, April 8 - Solar Eclipse Event - Gazebo - 12:45pm
- Wednesday, April 10 - B&A - CC1 and The Lakeview - 5pm
- Thursday, April 11 - DRAC Meeting - Roadrunner Lounge - 1:30pm
- Tuesday, April 16 - BST Fiesta & Marketing Open House - Main Lobby - 2pm
- Thursday, April 18 - Resident Council Meeting - Roadrunner Lounge - 1:30pm
- Thursday, April 25 - COVID Clinic - CC1 & Roadrunner Lounge - 12:30pm

Welcome

New Residents

New residents coming soon to a neighborhood near you.

Elroy Diatkar, #322

William & Debra Rauch, #743

**James "Jim" & Christina "Chris"
Wakenell, #851**

Willard & Pamela Addington, #1712

Jack & Mary Dole, #2214

Bob & Peggy Gracy, #2601



Resident Services Announcements

Beauty Shop

Have a Beauty/Barber Shop appointment coming up, but you're not feeling well? We encourage you to give them a call to reschedule your appointment for when you're feeling better. We want you to look good but we also want you feeling good too.

New Touchtown Module

A continuum of care app has been added to Touchtown. Here you will find the most recent continuum of care videos and PowerPoints with a wealth of information for Independent Living, Liberty House, The Mission, Select Rehab, Hospice, and Home Health.

The Village Store

Tired of the same items? Want to try something new? Share your thoughts on what you would like and we can work towards getting it on our shelves. Please contact Teresa in Resident Services.

AFIO Chapter Meeting

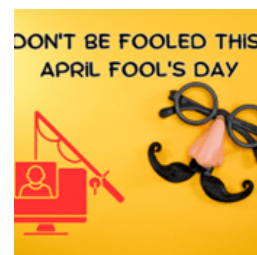
The San Antonio AFIO Chapter meeting will be Monday, **April 1** at noon in the Roadrunner Lounge. The program will be in two parts: A statistical review of Russian demographics related to their war fighting capabilities followed by an AFIO Now video interview with Dr. Seth Jones, PhD, Author; Professor; and Director of Transnational Threats at the CSIS (Center for Strategic and International Studies). He has written a new book - Three Dangerous Men: Russia, China, Iran and the Rise of Irregular Warfare. All Blue Skies of Texas residents are invited to attend the program.

Hose Bib Covers

The covers that were placed during the cold weather this year can be kept at your residence, please place them somewhere that you can access them next year.

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!



Safety

The wild hogs are stopping by our Campus in the early morning hours feasting on our lush lawns. Please use extreme caution if you walk during this time period. Maintenance is actively trapping them and repairing the fence when they tear it up to gain entry.

The Roadrunner by Email

If you would like to receive your Roadrunner via email, please email roadrunner@blueskiestx.org and we'll be happy to add your email address to the list of Residents receiving Roadrunner by email. The Roadrunner, Bon Appétit, and the Wellness and Life Enrichment publications are always available on our Blue Skies of Texas Website, www.blueskiesoftx.org. Start by clicking on What's Happening then select West Campus and you are there. The newsletters are also available on TouchTown and the Resident Portal.

In Memoriam

JoAnn Tuttle – March 10
Jerry Marshall – March 17

Resident Services Announcements

Pest Control Schedule

	Friday, April 5	Friday, April 12	Friday, April 19	Friday, April 26
Tower Apts.	631-638, 641-648, 441-448	611-618, 621-628	711-718, 721-728	731-738, 741-748
Cottages	2300-2400	2500-2600	2700	2800
Specials	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.
Ranch Homes	837, 838, 839, 840	841, 843, 845	847, 851, 853, 855 Basketball & Tennis Courts	857, 859, Pavilion #2

Employee Anniversaries

Name	Department	Anniversary Date	Years of Service
Elizabeth Bain	Hospice	April 1	8
Dixie Garcia	Dining Services	April 5	2
Pilar Cantu	EVS Housekeeper	April 5	2
Ilene Kitchens	Sales Counselor	April 6	9
Melissa Avendano	Freedom House	April 6	3
Iyshea DeLeon	Dining Services	April 7	4
Danielle Starr	Freedom House	April 14	1
Meleia Monsey	Senior Executive Assistant	April 16	6
Lauren Smith	Day Care	April 17	1
Heather Ryniker	Director of Finance	April 18	2
Jessica Cortez	Freedom House	April 19	1
Robert Taylor	Dining Services	April 26	1
Brandy Garcia	Liberty House	April 27	15
Evelyn Caldwell	EVS Housekeeper	April 28	7
Lindsey Estrada	Freedom House	April 28	7

Resident Updates

Rotary Corner ~ Debby Welker

The San Antonio West Rotary Club meets right here at Blue Skies of Texas West twice a month: the first (1st) and third (3rd) Tuesday from 12-1pm in the Roadrunner Lounge.

About half of our members live right here at Blue Skies and the rest are from the surrounding community. So, participating with our club gives you an opportunity to network with very interesting people beyond Blue Skies and to learn about Rotary service projects both locally and globally. Plus, you will get exposed to the many other service organizations around San Antonio that improve our great city.

Everyone is always welcome to attend any of our meetings to hear one of the dynamic speakers we are fortunate to attract. Last month we learned about the planned San Antonio arboretum that will be located near the old Brooks Air Force base. Plus, the Chief Development Officer from Big Brothers Big Sisters told us about their life-changing youth one to one mentoring program.

This month on Tuesday, **April 2** you will have the opportunity to meet the three outstanding students from Southwest Legacy High School who are Rotary Club scholarship candidates. One is the class valedictorian and the President of the Rotary Interact Club at the high school which is sponsored by our club. One of the other candidates is the Vice President of Interact and a recent immigrant from Rwanda who has overcome overwhelming odds to excel.

On Tuesday, **April 16** you will meet the chair of our Rotary District Youth Services program, Dr Charles Karulak, who will talk about Rotary sponsored service clubs in elementary, middle, high school and local colleges; plus a leadership training retreat called Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and the international high school student exchange program of Rotary.

Our motto is: "Service Above Self" and these two April speakers are certainly a testament to the great work our local clubs do in the community. Please join us and feel free to bring your lunch with you.

If you have any questions or would like to receive an invitation to join Rotary, please contact Debby Cox (see resident roster).



Annual Ice Cream Social

Grab a friend or neighbor and encourage them to come enjoy a refreshing ice cream sundae on Tuesday, **April 9** from 2-3:30pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. Lots of delicious toppings and several flavors of ice cream will be provided. This is just a time of fun and fellowship with fellow residents. Last year we had a great crowd...don't miss out! We are celebrating spring! Sponsored by the High Flight Chapel Family.



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.

11th Hour Volunteer Info Session

The 11th Hour Volunteer Program is a very special group of residents who sit with dying hospice patients, so they are not alone in their last hours. Most often, 11th Hour Volunteers sit with Blue Skies residents whose families live far away. They may also sit with patients as family members travel here, or may provide respite for local family members, and some also participate in "social visits" with hospice patients to provide companionship.

We are expanding our volunteer base. If you are interested, join us on Thursday, **April 11** at 2:30pm in the LeMay Room for an information session about the program and training process. Contact Debbie White (see resident roster) for more information.

Resident Updates

April 10 B & A Celebrates FIESTA

~ Corlea Plowman

All BST West residents and guests are invited to join in the San Antonio spirit at the Wednesday, **April 10**, Birthday and Anniversary event (B & A). Doors open for the hosted Social Hour in CC1-3 Rooms at 5pm. Dinner service in the Lakeview Room is at 6pm. Michael McMullen will provide the entertainment.

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

The dinner includes:

Starter: Fiesta Salad (Black Beans, Corn, Green Pepper, Sweet Onion, Tomatoes with Cilantro Lime Ranch)

Entrée: Beef & Chicken Fajitas, Red & Green Peppers, Onions, Borracho Beans & Mexican Rice

Dessert: Flan

Bread: Flour Tortillas

Water, Coffee & Iced Tea Available

\$27 Per Person; *Alternative:* Chicken Fajitas

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, April 8, 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, Phyllis DeWitt, Jack Fay, Marguerite & Mike Fox, Doug & Marty Frazee, Carolyn Friedle, Jill Garza, Carl & Elaine Halada, Juanita (chair) & Bob Hess, Sandra Howard, Lydell Kiplin, Athalie & Mike Lacy, Thomas McKenzie, Bill & Kathy Odle, Frank & Karen Pearce, Jim & Vivian Ray, Kathryn & Ron Rickard, Alan (George) & Becky Rose, John Siebert, Marcia Tinsley, Ray Uribe, John Wendt, Carolyn & John Willard, and Barbara Wilson.

The Day the Sun Disappears

~ Betty Overacker

It's coming!! On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse occurs where the moon passes directly between the sun and earth orbits from Mexico to Canada. During the past 150 years, a total of 15 total eclipses have occurred in the US. The last US total eclipse happened on 21 August 2017, and passed from Oregon to South Carolina; attracted 20 million people; and was viewed locally at 69% coverage. San Antonio is just outside of the 115 mile wide totality path of the 8 April eclipse, so viewing should be fantastic. Locally, the eclipse commences at 1042 hours with maximum coverage at 1317 hours lasting for approximately 7 minutes. A total eclipse is a sight to behold as the sun slowly darkens, and then reappears. The next US total solar eclipse occurs in 20 years, on 23 August 2044. Remember eye protection with filtered lenses is necessary to view the bright eclipse. These protective lenses are available in the Village Store. Along the path, Amateur Radio Operators will be present to provide emergency communication capabilities for the anticipated 40 million spectators, who are viewing this spectacular event. All are welcome to attend the next BST Amateur Radio Club Meeting on Tuesday, **April 16**, in Meeting Room 110 at 11:30 am. There will be an 18 minute video presentation about operating the Club's transmitter produced by Bob Stuckert and Bob Seigel. Please contact Bob Stuckert for more information. 73—(Best regards in Ham Language)

Tuxedo, the Wonder Dog!

~ Dottie Conner

Every other Wednesday, Blue Skies resident, Tom Young, takes his therapy dog, Tuxedo, to visit residents at Freedom House. They exchange love and friendly warm feelings, and everyone ends up happier. Even Tuxedo! He told me so himself.



Resident Updates

Dining Room Advisory Council ~ Leo Bell

The Dining Room Advisory Committee (DRAC) needs a new secretary. Nancy Reeder has given notable service for over a year and now has a plate-too-full. We would like to have her replacement in place at the April meeting, and she will train the new person. Please contact DRAC Chair, Leo Bell, Jr. to apply. Thank you and laurels for Nancy.

Please consider joining and participating as a DRAC member. A representative need not live in a specific neighborhood to become a member. There is a place for multiple neighborhood members. We still need another to help Sue Robert's work for Liberty House.

We presented our March 2024 best Front-of-the-House and Back-of-the-House awards. Thank you to Michael Vause, FOTH, and John Mauricio, BOTH, for all you do for BSTW. Michael does more than provide splendid attention in The Lakeview. He also happens to work at the Front Desk as a Courtesy Officer on the weekends.

The winners selected for April 2024 are Christopher Patton for Back-of-the-House, and Judith Rodriguez for Front-of-the-House. We derive so much from their exemplary service to us.

Thanks to Chef Jeronimo for the outstanding calamari as an appetizer, also served in combination with the seafood basket. Spaghetti is returning to the quarterly menu rotation, with the Chef's special touch. Did you know that replacing or refreshing entrees is based partly upon item SALES? Your meal purchases contribute to an item's longevity, its removal, retention, return, or even its replacement.

That is an important reason for you to continue submitting online comment cards.

There is a bus to BSTE for the monthly theme meal at the Sky Lounge on the third Saturday of each month. Sign up early on TouchTown or at the front desk. Katrina says the buses are too busy providing transportation for residents on Fridays, to run another bus to the Sky Lounge.

We kindly ask that you complete meal comment cards online. As we age, hand-written notes can become illegible. Please help Sandi accurately capture the facts and substance of your dining experience by completing the form online. Our Webmaster, Ron Miller, has added a feature to the online comment card, the "I am not a robot" check box to help deter spam hackers. Quick and fast thinking Ron has made our comment submissions safer and more secure. Please let him know if you receive any SPAM after submitting your online comments. If necessary, more anti-spam protection can be added. If you still prefer handwritten comment cards, please include meal, date-of-service, and your name.

I will be working to schedule wine tastings every two months. The last one was a great success with 30 attendees and just as many on the waiting list. The expertly done charcuterie Chef Jeronimo enhanced our wine pairing knowledge and tasted wonderful. Huge shout-out to Chef J!!

The next kitchen tour is scheduled for Wednesday, **April 17** at 2pm. The DRAC Dining Room committee will schedule these popular tours on alternate months. I will publish June dates as soon as I have them. Thank you, Chef J and Sous Chef Frank for your willingness to walk us through your kitchen.

The next DRAC meeting is Thursday, **April 11** at 1:30pm in the Roadrunner Lounge.



Resident Updates

GADABOUTS -

Friday, **April 12** as the Gadabouts will be heading to the one and only 410 Diner! Meet downstairs at 10:15am. The bus will leave at 10:30am. Gadabouts is open to all singles and caregivers.

Resident Concert

Please join us on Sunday, **April 14** at 3pm in the BST West Main Lobby for a concert by the United States Air Force Spectrum Winds. This group of six talented musicians explore the diverse world of chamber music for winds and percussion. Come and enjoy good music and time with your fellow Blue Skies residents and stay after the concert for some refreshments in the Main Lobby.

Red Hat Luncheon ~ Vivian Ray

This month's lunch is hosted by Ellie Ray and Vivian Ray on Friday, **April 19** at 11:30am. We will be going to Seasons 52 Fresh Grill and Wine Bar, 255 E. Basse Rd., at Alamo Quarry Market, San Antonio, 78209. Please be in the Main Lobby by 10:30am. The bus leaves at 10:45am. When you sign up on the sheet, you must indicate "W" if you are using a walker or wheelchair because the bus only accommodates one wheelchair. If you sign up and can't go, it is essential that you remove your name from the sheet by the Wednesday morning before the luncheon. If you do not remove your name, you will be considered a "no call, no show," and will be charged the transportation cost. Please don't prevent someone on the waiting list from attending because you didn't take your name off the list in time.

Gazebo Lake Fishing Outing ~ Layne Perelli

The BSTW Fishing Club invites all residents and guests of residents only to participate in our Annual Gazebo Lake Fishing Shindig on Saturday, **April 20**. Fishing will be from 8-11am and there will be a picnic following, from 11am-1pm. Non-fishing socializers and guests welcome. No fishing tackle? No problem! The Fishing Club will be happy to provide everything you need, including instructions, fishing tips, and mobility assistance. After fishing, we will gather at the Gazebo for a Rousing Social Event to share experiences and describe the "big one that got away." Bring your own drinks and luncheon snacks to share. There will be a contest for largest Bass and Bluegill and most fish caught. Prizes include Official Bragging Rights for one year. There will be a sign-up sheet in CC3 with a limit of 30 participants. Indicate if you will need a fishing rod, bait, or a guide. For more information, contact Layne Perelli (see resident guide).



Entertainment Committee Sunday Afternoon Concert ~ Bill Ball

Our Blue Skies of Texas West Entertainment Committee is sponsoring a Sunday Afternoon Concert. This will be a sixty-minute program of eclectic music selected by Bill Ball and played along with a slideshow of interesting photos on the big projector screen. The music program selections come from several music genres and are performed by famous artists. Selected artists include Harry Belafonte, John Williams, Harry Connick Jr., Odetta, Yo-yo Ma, Alison Krauss, Marcus Roberts, Misty River Band, The New Christy, Minstrels, Roy Clark, Cathie Ryan, Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Tom Fischer Band, Loreena McKennitt, and Jimmy Durante. The Roadrunner Lounge will be set up with tables, as usual, so bring your own libation and come enjoy the music. We will start on time at 2pm, Sunday, **April 21**, so don't be late.

Deadline for the next Roadrunner is Monday, **April 22**

Send articles to roadrunner@blueskiestx.org

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

Resident Updates

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.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

The Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group will meet on Thursday, **April 4**, at 1:30pm in the Freedom House Chapel. Residents of Blues Skies East and West who are caring for loved ones at home or at Freedom House are welcome to attend.

Auto Insurance ~ Sue Shields

Has your car insurance gone through the roof lately? Would anyone be interested in attending a meeting to compare premiums? If there is interest, I will set up a group meeting. Contact info is in the resident directory; I prefer text or email communication.

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!

Residents Entertain at Freedom House

~ Dottie Conner

Seven Blue Skies residents, Susan Stuckert, Karen McDonald, Carol Conkey, Eleanor Frisch, Sue Shields, Martha Glauner, and Diantha Perelli took their Reader's Theater stories to Freedom House to entertain the residents and staff on Friday, March 8. Judging by the laughter and smiles and thankyou's after, it was enjoyed by all!



Resident Updates

National Day of Prayer Breakfast, Thursday, May 2 at 8:30am

The National Day of Prayer belongs to All Americans. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress and President Harry Truman. The unanimous passage of the bill established an annual event to be observed across our land. They recognized prayer is as important to our nation today as it was in the beginning. Each year the residents of Blue Skies from all faiths and political persuasion come together for a program of beautiful patriotic music and a motivating speaker. We'll share a meal together and join voices with others across the land praying for our nation and giving thanks for our freedoms.



We are excited to announce Dave Roever will be our speaker for this year's event. Dave is a Vietnam veteran who served in the elite Brown Water Black Berets. He travels the globe speaking to large national conventions, public schools and the US military. He shares his gripping story with engaging humor, imparting hope in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. He has taken his message to US troops across the world. Since 2007 Roever's organization has sponsored retreats and camps for wounded warriors and their families free of charge, providing healing for their trauma from past wars. He was our speaker at the 2015 Prayer Breakfast and drew such a rousing response that we are VERY excited to have him again.

Cost of the breakfast is \$ 20.00 per person. You can register by putting your check in an envelope and returning to the Protestant Chapel (this is not part of your regular food plan). You will find a chapel "cubbie" in the inter resident mailboxes. Deadline is Wednesday, **April 24**. For your convenience there are envelopes on the posters around campus and a signup sheet in CC3. You will want to sign up early!

Resident of the Month

"April showers bring May flowers." With draught conditions, Jim Conner is Blue Skies "April Showers" for Garden Club members to produce beautiful flowers and abundant vegetables. Jim's untiring dedication to fulfill member residents' requests and suggestions are remarkable. He continually is upgrading the gardens by digging ditches; laying pipes to provide water; arranging for new edges to replace the rotting railroad ties; and replacing stones on the walkways. Recognizing the social aspects of gardening, Jim organizes Garden Club potluck suppers twice yearly; plus has a yearly open house for all residents to enjoy the beauty and pleasure of gardening. Yearly, Jim invites horticulturist, David Rodriguez, to speak with residents about planting in their yards and on their balconies. Jim assisted with constructing bee hives in the garden area, which provide pollinating, plus fresh and delicious honey. The beautiful flowerpots decorating the Lakeview gazebo are Jim's work.

Jim's additional contributions to our Community are enormous and memorable. Yearly, he organizes the patriotic and solemn Veterans' Day program. He recruits residents as volunteer judges for the Regional High School Science Fair. He is the Treasurer for the Woodworking shop. For years, he has been an "Ambassador," welcoming newcomers, and greeting folks interested in making "Blue Skies" their home. A Nebraska football fan, Jim gathers other fans to watch games together. Jim always has another project to accomplish. This year, he is planning a Memorial Day program to honor all residents who have died during this past year. Jim, our Community appreciates your dedication and initiative to promote "Blue Skies" spirit!! Nominated by Fidel Exconde.



Resident Updates

AARP Defensive Driving Class

~ Paula Haley

Have you ever wondered how old the new tires were that were placed on your car by the seller? Or have you thought about when it's time to stop driving? Well wonder no more!!!! Come to the next AARP Defensive Driving class and get all the answers. Some residents come to the class because they get a discount on their insurance, some come to learn new information put out by AARP and some come just so they don't have to walk the dog that day. Whatever your reason may be, sign-up in CC3 for the next class that'll be held on Friday, **May 10**, starting at 12:30pm. We have volunteer instructors who have been certified by AARP and this month Jim Phelps will be the lead instructor. Once you sign up Jim will contact you with the necessary information.

Ron's 85th ~ Ron Conkey

Our family was greatly impressed by the warm support of the Blue Skies residents and staff. Thanks to all who stopped me in the halls, put notes in cards, and joined us in the Roadrunner. We had fun!

With Utmost Gratitude ~ Celia Kellogg

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to everyone at Blue Skies for the support and expression of sympathy during the loss of my beloved husband James. Your caring words and friendship during my grief has meant so much. Your love, prayers and consoling touch helped ease my pain and have given me the strength to carry on. It is a great blessing to be surrounded by a caring "family" here at the Village.

Golf Range Under New Management ~ Ron Miller

The golf range has a new manager. Don Hallager has turned the keys to the golf shack over to Ron Miller. Many thanks to Don for his many years of dedicated service as our golf range manager. Don has made many golf range improvements allowing all our golf enthusiasts, and their guests, to enjoy this great campus feature. Don also spearheaded putting a putting mat in The Vista Room 22, so golfers can maintain their flat-stick skills year-round. The range and putting room are open to all residents and their guests. If you have any golf equipment that you would like to donate for resident use, or for donating to the First Tee organization contact Ron Conkey or Ron Miller.

Library ~ Barbara Folkson & Peggy Durack

We have ordered a subscription of the Large Print Reader's Digest Condensed Books for Liberty House. There are usually 4 or 5 books published during the year.

On the resident portal, there are links to the following: library books and DVD's. The lists are searchable by author, title and genre (Subject). Periodically we update the list as new books are added to the collection. Scroll down on the resident portal web page and links are on lower right side. The link to the BSTW Resident portal is <https://bstwresidentsportal.com/>

Magazines – We order an annual subscription to Readers Digest (Large Print). It is shelved in the main library with the magazines. All other magazines are donations from residents. We usually keep about 3 months of back issues.

Recent library donations - Elon Musk (Abraamson); Blowback (Patterson)

Large Print - Fragile Designs (Coble); The Ghost Orchid (Kellerman); The Missing Witness (Brennan);

Liberty House - The Exchange (Grisham); Wedding Dress (Steele); Sparring Partners (Grisham); Dead Man Switch (Quirky); Better Off Dead (Child); The Inheritance (Roberts); The Secret (Child); Lady Tan's Circle of Women (See); The Splendid & the Vile (Larsson; Large Print History)

Resident Updates

Resident Concert Series Review

~ Bob Seigel

The Residents' Concert Series sponsored "The Trio Zenia" to perform for residents on Feb 25th. It was only a duet that was performed for our residents that day, as the violinist had to undergo an emergency medical procedure a couple of days before the concert. The pianist and cellist insisted "the show must go on" and they did not disappoint one bit. The professional artists made a massive change in their planned repertoire. They delighted the crowd with some familiar music written for cello and piano. Their selections from Beethoven, Saint-Saëns, Fauré, Schumann, Les Miserables, and Franck pleased a lobby full of both East and West residents. It was a wonderful afternoon! We hope to see you at our next concert on Sunday, **April 14**, featuring the Air Force Woodwind Sextet.

Memorial Day Event ~ Jim Conner

A Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at Blue Skies of Texas West on Friday, **May 24**, starting at 11am. All residents who have passed on since the last Memorial Day will be named during the Ceremony. The event will be held from the sun porch of the Vista. There will be a brief Ceremony reciting the names of the departed and songs from the Village Voices. The John Jay High School drill teams will perform in front of this area following the formal Ceremony. Residents will have an opportunity to have lunch with the Cadets in the Vista dining area. Morrison will make box lunches which will include a choice of three sandwiches, chips, fruit, and a brownie. Residents who wish to participate or contribute need to sign up with Jim Conner or Tom Cochran. The cost for the lunches (\$16.00 each) will be prorated to participating residents as a catering cost.

Celebrating the Shumaker's ~ Dottie Conner

17 neighbors gathered on the Conner's deck to congratulate their own Susan and Keith Shumaker on their Distinguished Service Award for their efforts with the Thrift Ship furniture and electronic sales. They have amassed approximately \$183,000 through their efforts; money that is returned to residents in various ways. We are all very proud of them! Some neighbors then went on to The Lakeview for a celebration dinner.



Photo / Video Galleries ~ Bill Ball

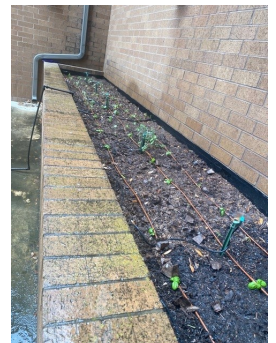
Access to our photos/videos website is now available from both TouchTown and the BSTW Residents Portal.

In TouchTown, pictures and videos galleries are located in the "BSTW Portal" as "Bill's Photos/Videos Portal". Click "Open Bill's Photos/Videos Portal" to open a new page in your browser.

The Blue Skies of Texas Residents Portal (<https://bstwresidentsportal.com/>), has a link to the photos/videos website is in the "Announcements" column, below "Restaurant Suggestions". Click on "Bill's Photos & Videos" to open a new page in your browser.

Herb Garden ~ Tom McKenzie

Approximately 40 Basil and 45 Thai Basil, whose seeds were started February 12, were planted in the patio off CC1. Watch them grow!



Sports, Games, & Scores

Seasoned Soles ~ Pat and John MacIntyre

To finish up February, a number of the Seasoned Soles conducted one of their off campus walks by doing a 10K walk starting in Alamo Heights and continuing through Olmos Park. It was a great way to see different and interesting neighborhoods of San Antonio. They finished their walk with breakfast at Las Palapas.

On February 29, John Shore reserved a Seasoned Soles table at the annual fundraiser for the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg. General David Petraeus was the guest speaker. The Shores, the MacIntyres, the Schulsters and John Paul Sullivan and his guest attended.

March 2, Pat Perry, John Paul Sullivan, Jim Schuster and Dan Van Syoc ran for the donuts at the annual Alamo Donut Dash 5K through Breckenridge Park and the San Antonio Zoo.

Pat Perry was the Seasoned Soles representative at the very difficult Prickly Pear 15K trail run through McAllister Park on the 10th of March.

St Patrick's Day traditions didn't go unnoticed by our runners, since there was a Shamrock Shuffle 5K held on the 16th of March at Lady Bird Johnson Park. The Cochrans and the MacIntyres competed, with Pat MacIntyre winning a live potted Shamrock plant as an age group award.

The Stride for Sight 5K at the end of March will be reported on in next month's issue.

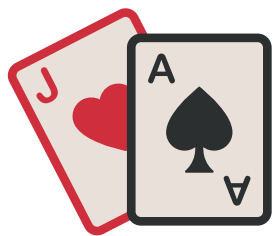


Bridge Results ~ Stu Flood

We play Bridge Mondays at 1pm, Thursdays at 6:30pm and the third Tuesday of the month at 1pm. Please sign up with a partner in CC3. Monday's are Party Bridge; all others are Duplicate. All games are relaxed games and we try to follow the rules. If you have questions, please reach out to Stu Flood (see Resident Roster) and he will point you in the right direction.

	1 Place	2 Place	3 Place	4 Place
March 8	Flood / Wood	Cowan / Cowan	Germann / Padgett	Hood / Wright
March 11	Graves / Sweigart	Padgett / Siefken	Flood / Wood	Cowan / Cowan
March 14	Flood / Wood	Bader / Wernette	Hood / Wright	Germann / Padgett
March 18	Higginbotham / Newman	Germann / Wesson	Graves / Padgett	Hood / Skucas
March 19	J Hough / D Skucas		Flood / Terry	
March 21	Bader / Wernette	Cowan / Cowan	Flood / Wood	Wesson / Wagner

Sports, Games, & Scores



Blackjack Quarterly Winners

Wally Pike	4900 points
Jim Wakenell	4025 points
Chris Wakenell	3200 points

Bunco ~ JoAnn Oldham

The Ladies Bunco group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in CC3. Bring \$1 for the “POT” and join in the fun of this fast-paced game. Tuesdays, April 2 and 16 we will celebrate the arrival of spring with wine and cheese. A group of ladies meets in the Roadrunner Lounge, and then enjoys dinner together in The Lakeview, before Bunco. Bring a friend and \$1 and join us for a fun-filled LADIES NIGHT OUT.

Winners for March

Corlea Plowman, Annette Johnson, Betty Chalfont, Brenda Perry, Joyce Ann Goodwin

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!

Karaoke Returns!

There was a good crowd for the St Patrick's Day Karaoke. Susan Griffith even organized her cul-de-sac to bring a potluck dinner before the show. Good idea for other neighborhoods; make a night of it!

Entertainment included Diantha Perelli and the Irish Dancers, the McDonalds doing jokes, skits and stories and songs by Pat Wagner and Jack Briggs and karaoke with new residents the Dills and friends, and more!



Spiritual News

Catholic News ~ Rebecca Vallejo

Mass - Saturdays at 11am in the High Flight Chapel (Fulfills Sunday obligation, by special dispensation of the San Antonio Archbishop)

Benediction and Adoration - The first Wednesday of the month immediately following the 9am Communion service led by Deacon Richard in the Willow Chapel, located in The Vista.

Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration - Every Friday from 3-4 pm in the High Flight Chapel.

Communion Service - Every Wednesday at 9am led by Deacon Richard in the Willow Chapel located in The Vista.

Monthly Rosary - Every third Wednesday of the month immediately following the 9am Communion service led by laity in the Willow Chapel, located in The Vista

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.

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

Third Wednesday - 9:30am Rosary following Communion Service in the Willow 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).

Homebound - If you are homebound and unable to attend Mass but would like to receive Holy Communion, you may contact John Siebert, Rebecca Vallejo, Barbara Wilson or Mary Tucker 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).

Hospital Visits - Most hospitals have a Catholic priest available; ask a staff member to contact a priest.

Protestant Church

Regular Services

High Flight Chapel - Sunday 9:30am and 11am

Sunday service is repeated at 10:30am on Wednesday on Channel 1890 or the Main Lobby monitors.

Fellowship time between services 10:30-11am

Freedom House - Sundays at 10:45am

Liberty House 3rd level - Thursday at 10:30am

Pray For Our Nation happens the 1st and 3rd Friday at 10am in the Helen LeMay Room.

We also have Bible Study groups and other activities. If you are interested in joining our congregation or wish to speak to either Pastors Wayne Knutson or Pastor Dan Figueroa please leave a message with the church office at 210-568-3372 and they will be in touch.

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

