

# FRIDAY FLYER

JULY 2024

VOLUME 2024-07



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Legacy Room Renovations

We're excited to update you on the progress of the Legacy Room renovations! Currently, the floor has been ordered, and painting will begin in the coming days. The new AV system is scheduled for installation during the first week of July, which will further enhance your experience in this cherished space.

### Window Project

Every resident room and hallway on the 6th, 7th and 8th floors have new windows. A final walk through of each resident apartment took place on June 18th to identify remaining window project issues that need to be addressed. We appreciate the cooperation of residents when the window replacement work was taking place in their apartments!



## SAVE THE DATE:

Tuesday, 2 July - DRAC Meeting, Sky Lounge, 2pm

Thursday, 4 July - Independence Day - Federal Holiday

- Resident 4th of July Celebration Program and Luncheon, Main Lobby, 11am
- Tickets required for KFC boxed dinner
- No mail delivery; Broadway Bank will be CLOSED; No BST transportation; Minimal BST staffing; Cochran's will be CLOSED

Monday, 8 July - Valley Hi HOA Meeting, CC2 & 3, 7pm

Thursday, 9 July - BA & NC, Sky Lounge, 5pm (Sign-up in CC1)

Wednesday, 17 July - Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service, Fort Sam, 8am

Thursday, 25 July - Open RC Meeting, Sky Lounge, 2pm

Be sure to explore the Wellness & Life Enrichment Newsletter for all the exciting July activities! 1

# Welcome

## New Residents

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

**Richard Monforti #309**

**Bill & Colleen Stanfill #1004/06**

**Catherine Watts #1305**

**Noe & Christina Rodriguez #707/09**

**Ronald Bragg #911**

**Marilyn Caton #608/10**

**Alena Outs #705**



# Resident Services Announcements

## Beauty Salon Update

We are thrilled to announce that Gina is now the Manager of the East Campus Beauty Salon! Gina is dedicated to meeting all your beauty needs and is committed to enhancing both the look and operation of the salon. She is also actively looking to hire an additional stylist to better serve you.

Please note that there has been a price increase, with notices available in the salon. To make an appointment, call Gina at 210-568-5090. Her hours are Monday at The Mission, and Tuesday-Friday at the Main Salon from 7:30am to 4:00pm.

## Resident Pets

Most of you have provided updated vaccination records for your pets. Your cooperation is appreciated. Effective 1 July 2024, the monthly pet fee will increase to \$32.00 per month. This adjustment is in line with the overall 5% increase applied to the monthly service fees and is necessary to cover the increased costs of maintaining a pet-friendly campus, including upkeep of common areas and pet amenities.

## Village Store Meal Plan Items

We understand there has been some confusion about which items can be purchased with your Meal Plan at the Village Store. We have confirmed that the following items are available for purchase using your Meal Plan:

Milk, Soda Drinks, Water, Sandwiches, Chef Salad, Fruit, Wine and Beer

## Sara Alert Notification System

Our Sara Alert program can send email, text, and voice message notifications when Resident Services needs to convey important information promptly. If you are not receiving these notifications, or if you prefer not to receive any of them, please contact Resident Services.

## New Package Delivery Procedure

To improve the handling of resident packages left at the Front Desk, we have implemented a new form and procedure. When a package arrives, the form will include:

- The resident's name and apartment number
- The carrier
- The date and time the package was received
- The method used to notify the resident (such as phone call or voicemail) along with the date and time of notification

The resident will sign the form when picking up the package, noting the date and time. The Front Desk staff will initial the form to confirm each step's completion, and the form will be filed in a Package Delivery Binder. This new procedure is designed to reduce the likelihood of packages being lost, delivered to the wrong apartment, or kept at the front desk for too long.



# Resident Services Announcements

## Ocean Waves ~ Sun Rays ~ Keep Those Scammers Away

~ Ashlie Maltos

It is no secret that Artificial Intelligence or also known as AI is starting to take over the technology world.

But what is AI? AI refers to a computer system performing complex tasks that historically only a human could do. For

example, reasoning, making decisions or solving problems. So, how does this involve Scamming? Well, the most obvious example of how scammers use this new AI technology is by:

- Write more convincing and natural-sounding phishing emails and text messages.
- Create deepfakes of celebrities to trick victims into thinking they're investing in a good company or project.
- Impersonate the victim's friend or relative and ask for money as part of a grandparent scam.
- Impersonate an employer and ask for personal information.

The potential to create an image, video, or voice of someone else could make existing scams even more believable and this opens new opportunities for scammers.



### In Memoriam

Joan Meserve - June 11

Yvonne "Belva" Schott - June 29

**Deadline** for the next Friday Flyer:

Monday, **July 22**

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

**Next Publication Date:** Wednesday, **July 31**

### AFIO Chapter Meeting

The San Antonio AFIO Chapter meeting will be Monday, **July 1** at 12pm at the Blue Skies Texas West complex. (5100 John D Ryan Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78245).

Blue Skies of Texas residents are invited to attend the program. The presentation will be a series of items covering rebuilding of Tyndall AFB for F-35, European researchers responding to Chinese spying, F-35 vs A-10 flyoff = Farewell to the Warthog, the AO-1A Warden aircraft, Armenia divorces Mother Russia, and NSA issues guidance on cell phones.

# Resident Services Announcements

## Hagauer Memorial Scholarship

We are excited to announce the winners of our 2024 Hagauer Memorial Scholarship: Ivan Vazquez-Awarded \$1,000, son of Elena Vazquez, Social Worker at the Mission; Ivonne Torres-Awarded \$1,000, RN Case Manager with Hospice; Andrea Ponder-Awarded \$500, Scheduling Coordinator for the Mission; and Cynthia Escobar- Awarded \$500, Senior HR Generalist.

The Scholarship is named in honor of former Air Force Village President & CEO Colonel Richard W. Hagauer, and made possible by former AFV Inc. Board member, Col (USAF, ret) Jim Concannon. It was established for the purpose of advancing education by providing financial assistance to qualified Village employees and their dependent children. The process was extremely competitive. A Selection Committee comprised of senior staff members made the final selection of our winners.

- Ivan, an undergraduate student and active cadet of the Air Force ROTC Detachment 842 at The University of Texas at San Antonio is studying Accounting. Ivan has demonstrated academic achievement, leadership, and service to the community through his commitment to the Air Force Reserve Officer's Training Corps program. Ivan seeks to focus his education on advancing his knowledge of accounting by later pursuing a master's degree and CPA certification in accounting. Ivan's ultimate "lifelong dream" is to serve our country as an Officer of the United States Air Force.
- Ivonne, BST's RN Case Manager for Hospice is an undergraduate at The University of Texas at Arlington. Ivonne is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and has a long-term goal of becoming a Nurse Practitioner. Ivonne has demonstrated love, care, and compassion for residents and has been referred to as the "MacGyver" of nursing. Her continued efforts of learning and passion for nursing is proven in her 4.0 GPA and in her current role of providing mentorship to new nurses.
- Andrea, BST's Scheduling Coordinator for the Mission, and an undergraduate student at The University of Phoenix says she has known since childhood of her passion for helping people. Andrea strives to fulfill her long-term goal of becoming a Social Worker for Blues Skies. Andrea exhibits leadership, service to her community and resilience all while balancing full time academics, working full time, and being a wife and a mother.
- Cynthia, BST's Senior HR Generalist, and undergraduate student at Texas A&M San Antonio is working toward a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in human resources management. While working her full-time job, managing her academic studies, and her involvement with a cycling community, Cynthia plays an active role of volunteering her time to the local Society for Human Resource Management student chapter as the Chapter Vice President. Cynthia's ongoing involvement with SHRM was commended with her recent recognition of the prestigious SHRM National Scholarship Award.

We are immensely proud of these recipients, and want to thank all of you for your support of our Blue Skies of Texas employees' and family members' educational dreams. Congratulations Ivan, Ivonne, Andrea, and Cynthia!



# 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](mailto:workorder@blueskiestx.org)

## Pest Control:

*Services are accomplished four weeks per month*

	Thursday, July 4	Thursday, July 11	Thursday, July 19	Thursday, July 26
<b>High-Rise</b>	Floors 11-12	Floor 13	Floor 14	Floor 15
<b>Mid-Rise</b>	Floor 7	Floor 8		
<b>Cottages</b>	1728-1731	1714-1719	1709-1713	1628-1631
<b>Hills</b>				
<b>Specials</b>	Arnold House Interior & Exterior Bistro Interior & Exterior	Hobby Shop / Maintenance Exterior	AH Exterior MX Exterior	Main Kitchen/Dining MX Interior H-R, M-R, HCC, The Mission, Fitness, Hobby Shop Exteriors



## Employee Anniversaries

Name	Location	Anniversary Date	Years of Service
Kristy De La Cruz	Arnold House	July 20	1
Stacey Meadows	The Mission	July 11	1
Jennifer Guerra	The Mission	July 6	1
Ruby Pagan	Dining Services	July 18	1
Matthew Furdge	Dining Services	July 18	1
Minerva Gonzales	Dining Services	July 14	1
Jacqueline Farnsworth	Wellness	July 3	1
Sarah Manzke	Chief Growth Officer	July 27	4
Dave Zeh	Courtesy Officer	July 30	6
Jeanine Amecucci	Wellness	July 19	7
Bridgette Hastings	Dining Services	July 8	8
Anthony Rodriguez	Maintenance	July 17	23
Marla Casanova	Wellness	July 2	28

# Resident Updates

## Bill Wilt, Volunteer

Bill Wilt, an eight-year resident of BSTE, received the 2023 Joint Base San Antonio Certificate of Volunteer Excellence, at the annual JBSA Volunteer Awards Ceremony held at Fort Sam Houston on 17 April 2024. For the past seven years Bill has volunteered as the docent for the USAF Airman Heritage Museum, located at Lackland AFB. His main focus has been on the Curtis JN-4D, known as the “Jenny”, a WWI bi-plane. The museum owns an actual Jenny which is on display inside the building. Every Thursday afternoon following BMT graduation, hundreds of parents, friends and graduates, would listen to his overview of the Jenny's history. If the visitors showed interest, his insight could continue for 5 to 30 minutes or more. There would be many questions from the audience about the plane, the Air Force in general and Bill's career in particular.

Bill introduced Lt. Col Travis Smith, USAF (Ret) to the museum. Lt Col Smith was a BSTE resident. He was a P51 Mustang fighter pilot during WWII, with 64 combat missions. Bill said "It was sometimes hard to tell who was having more fun, the airmen, their parents or Trav!" Trav's last appearance at the Museum was on his 100th birthday, March 23, 2023. Bill's efforts to bring Travis into the museum community brought the airmen into a part of USAF history and a sparkle into Travis' eye!

Quoting from the award:

"Certificate of Volunteer Excellence - This is to recognize John William Wilt for exceptionally meritorious volunteer service to the United States Air Force community” David W Allvin, Chief of Staff.



## LT Col Norris Wynne Honored at D Day Ceremony

On June 6th, JBSA Lackland honored WWII veterans at their BMT graduation ceremony, marking the 80th anniversary of D-Day. LT Col Norris Wynne, the only Blue Skies East resident who served in WWII, was honored at the event. He was accompanied by LT Col Paul Wilkinson, who escorted him to and from the ceremony.

# Resident Updates

## White Elephant Thrift Shop ~ Ricci Fitzpatrick

We now have air conditioning and newly refurbished dressing rooms in The Closet! Come browse and try on clothes in comfort. Also, be sure to put the White Elephant Fashion Show on your calendar for August 9th, 2-4pm. Come see the best that the White Elephant has to offer in fashionable clothing, modeled by Blue Skies East residents and employees.

Look for new items in the Furniture Store. We currently have a lift chair recliner for a great price! Remember, the 4th of July is on a Thursday, so make sure you visit the White Elephant for patriotic décor and flags on Friday, June 28. The White Elephant Thrift Shop, Furniture Store, and The Closet are open 9-11:30am on Fridays, and from 1-3pm on Saturdays, **July 6 and 20**.

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

Remember, the White Elephant accepts cash, personal checks, credit and debit cards, Cash App, and other touch-pay options. We have Gift Certificates for any amount, and they are good for 90 days after purchase.

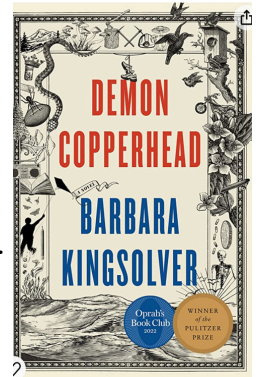
We thank all our generous donors, as proceeds from White Elephant sales are used for BSTE resident betterment.

## Freedom House Dementia Caregivers Support Group

This monthly support group provides an opportunity for caregivers affected by Alzheimer's Disease or related dementias to share their experiences and receive guidance, support, and inspiration. We meet on the first Thursday of each month, at 1:30pm in the Freedom House Chapel. Participants are welcome to bring their loved one to join a planned activity during the support group. RSVP is required, to Annabell Garcia, Freedom House Activities Coordinator at 210.838.6301 or [annabellgarcia@blueskiestx.org](mailto:annabellgarcia@blueskiestx.org). Because of the July 4th holiday, this month we will meet on Thursday, **July 11** at 1:30pm.

## Book Club ~ Nancy Sowada

On June 3, the Blue Skies East Book Club enjoyed the discussion of *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Our next book is *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. We will discuss that book on **July 15** at 10am in the CC rooms. *Demon Copperhead* was a co-recipient of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and won the 2023 Women's Prize for Fiction. Kingsolver was inspired by the Charles Dickens novel *David Copperfield*. While Kingsolver's novel is similarly about a boy who experiences poverty, *Demon Copperhead* is set in Appalachia and explores contemporary issues. The main character, Damon Fields, is born to a teenage mother in a trailer home. He is raised in Lee County, located in Appalachian Mountains of Virginia, and nicknamed "Demon Copperhead" for the color of his hair and his attitude. As Demon grows up, he must use his charms and wits to survive poverty in the contemporary American South. A copy of this book is in the Blue Skies East library. On July 15, we will also select books to read for November and December and the first part of 2025. Please join us!



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 Monday at 10:00 in the CC Rooms.

# Resident Updates

## Village Voices ~ Nancy Sowada

In 1975, Blue Skies East residents George Howard and Jim Leddon joined forces to formalize The Village Voices. Beryl McKesson was the accompanist. “The first meeting of the Village Voices was held in 1976 with one objective in mind—the love of singing” (Col. Howard). In 1987, residents from Air Force Village II joined. In 1995, George Howard died, and John Lile became the conductor and accompanist. Programs by the Village Voices have been presented at many places, including USAA with the USAF Band of the West; OTS Choir at Medina Base, nursing homes in the city, as well as The Mission, Vista, Freedom House and Liberty House; Main Chapel at Lackland; Lions and Rotary Clubs; Army Retirement Center; USAA Towers; churches; 1982 Dedication of glass window at Air Force Village I; Fort Sam Houston and Lackland Officers’ Clubs; Howard Hall at Lackland AFB dedication program; and others. In 2016, ill health caused John Lile to retire from directing the Village Voices and Rob Jenkins took over direction and accompanying. In 2018, resident Nancy Jones Sowada took over direction of the Village Voices.

The Village Voices practice from 1:30-3:30 every Tuesday from August through May in the chapel at Blue Skies West. The Village Voices have a spring and fall performance show for Blue Skies East and West and they also perform each spring and fall at the Mission, the Vista, and Freedom House. In addition, they perform for the Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs at Blue Skies West. They are available to perform at other times, when requested.

The members of the Village Voices are excited to be in our 49th year of continuous existence. We thank residents for your continued support through the Air Force Village Charitable Fund and the Blue Skies West Activities Coordinating Council. Join us for rehearsals beginning August 20. The picture (*right*) is from one of our spring 2024 performances.



## Blue Skies Handbells ~ Nancy Sowada

Nona Whitlatch, a resident of Blue Skies West sang with the Village Voices and started the Blue Skies West Handbell Choir. Starting in 1990, Nona began a fund-raising campaign and money was collected from residents to purchase the handbells and chimes. She was a major part of this effort. There were many, many contributions. The handbells are inscribed with the people’s names who contributed. We, the current members of the Blue Skies West Handbell Choir, are honored and excited to be a part of a Blue Skies group that has been in existence for more than 30 years and we look forward to beginning rehearsals again in August and performing for our residents later this year. We thank residents for their continuing contributions to the Blue Skies West Activities Coordinating Council for the maintenance and service of these beautiful bells and for the purchase of music.





# Resident Updates

## Catholic Mass

Saturday, July 6 - Confession at 3pm, Mass at 4pm

Sunday, July 14 - Mass at 1pm

Sunday, July 21 - Mass at 1pm

Sunday, July 28 - No Mass, Communion Service at 1pm



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

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

Upcoming DRAC meetings: There will be NO DRAC meeting in July. Tuesday, August 6 at 2pm in the Sky Lounge.

July:

- The price of the Bon Appetite Daily specials is now \$11.55. West's new price is \$12.10
- Cochran's is closed all day on July 4th. Also, there will be no Thirsty Thursday in Sky Lounge that day.
- No DRAC Meeting in July.
- No "Destination Dining"

A sanitation station is placed for you to use by the ice and beverage table. Also please be sure to not leave the scoop in the ice at any time.

In July the "Anytime Menu" at Cochran's will be changing some of the items available. In addition, there will be some vegetarian options featured.

Dining specials are now only being electronically sent out using Uniguest (old Touchtown) slides. Emails of specials will no longer be sent out to you through Bruce's MailChimp. The specials are also posted in the hallway entering Cochran's.

We wish Yolanda much fulfillment on her journey as she walks in her calling as a minister. Morrison is in the process of finding her replacement.

# White Elephant Fashion Show

Featuring Creations from the “Clothes Closet”

**DATE:** August 9, 2024

**TIME:** 2:00 to 4:00 pm

**PLACE:** Blue Skies EAST Legacy  
Room

**Models from Blue Skies** *(our neighbors)*

*And Becci Terezhalmay*

**Mistress of Ceremonies**

