

Bluebill FLYER June 2020



Olympic Peninsula Boeing Bluebill Newsletter Serving Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties



Chair Barbara
Berthiaume

From the Chair

By Myron Vogt



Co-Chair Clint Web

PROGRAM STATUS

Bluebills have been pretty much on hold the last couple of months but things seem to be opening up a bit. Here is what some of our programs look like.

Builders

We had a pretty good back log when we closed down and keep getting new requests. Jefferson and Clallam Counties are now in Safe Start Phase 2 to reopen. I plan to ask Catholic Community Services, who provide our insurance coverage, if we could come up with a process that would allow us to start helping people again. Of course, our Bluebill Builders would have to feel safe enough to work these jobs. This should happen in a week or two.

continued

World Vision Program

As noted elsewhere in the Flyer, we made a special trip to W/V to pick up goods needed by the Jefferson County Food Banks. I hope we can again get back to a scheduled pickup date, however, being able to do that not only depends on W/V but on our ability to distribute the goods we pickup. As long as most agencies, schools, churches, etc. are closed, we have no place to give these items to. Right now, about half of our Chimacum warehouse is full of items that need to be delivered but no place for them to go. This month we will survey the groups we work with to see if any want and are able to accept the items we currently have in stock.

Summer Feeding program-Chimacum

Right now we don't know if the program will be held and if so, what the limitations will be. If possible, we will try to help out here.

STEM Program

This is run by our non-profit, Peninsula Support Organization (PSO). Since the schools are closed we have had no new requests for the 2020-2021 school year. We did buy about \$3300 worth of robotic kits for the Port Townsend Elementary school this spring. Also, most agency donations are going to the COVID-19 fund so none is coming to PSO at this time. I expect we will have to wait and see what fall brings regarding school openings and how they will be operating.

Quarterly and Year-end Meetings

Since these meetings are really intended to get to know each other better as well as distribute information and recruit, it doesn't seem possible to hold these given the current situation. Our summer golf-themed meeting has already been cancelled. It seems doubtful that a fall meeting can be held. I hope we can figure something out for a year-end meeting.

It's going to be a while to get back to normal but I think we can get back to doing a number of things for our communities.

Myron

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We regret to announce that the July, 2020 Bluebills Summer Picnic and Golf Outing has been cancelled.

**We also regret to announce that the
August, 2020 Dove House Golf
Tournament has been cancelled.**

In deference to the toll that Corvid-19 has taken in our community, the 9th Annual Dove House Golf Benefit has been cancelled. We appreciate the 34 tee sponsors and the 8 major sponsors that have been loyal over the past years. Raffle donors have also been generous in making the raffle a colorful event. Last year, 109 golfers participated and we raised \$19,900. Over the years, the Bluebills have raised over \$100,000 for direct services to Dove House clients. We will be back next year with the 9th Annual Dove House Golf Benefit and will send a Save the Date in the spring. Meanwhile, continue to support the small businesses in our community and stay safe and healthy!

We look forward to seeing you next year!

June Calendar

Note: There are no World Vision Essential Supplies activities scheduled for June.

Any World Vision activities will be on an ad hoc basis. Watch your email for information on possible Essential Supplies activities.

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



From the Wayback Machine

Here's an article from April, 2013. Bluebills helped with the opening of Bayside Housing and Services at the Old Alcohol Plant.

BLUEBILLS HELP WITH HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS

Earlier this year
a non-profit purchased
the 32 room Bayside Hotel
in Port Hadlock.

The facility had been
vacant for about two years. The intent is to use this
former hotel to provide housing for clients
of several agencies such as Dove House and OlyCap

Bluebills were asked to help in any way we could
to get the hotel certified to accept clients.

One of the first steps was to do a room-by-room survey
to determine just what problems needed to be fixed.
We went through each room with inspections sheets
to check the plumbing, electrical and general condition.
All-in-all we picked up nearly 140 items that needed to be
corrected. Many were minor like burnt-out bulbs, missing
mirrors, tap leaks, etc; still these need to be corrected
before the room is ready to use.

Thanks to all the "inspectors". Michael Graham,
Rod Harp, Dale Blankenship,
Charlie Johnson, Jack Hawker, Truman Thompson,
Jack McKay and Ken Beard.

Myron

Bluebills checked every outlet for power and correct wiring.
Here Michael Graham tests an outlet in the kitchen
of the penthouse suite.



Bluebill Builders Aprons

By

Valeria Vogt

One day about 15 years ago (we can't remember the exact year) Myron decided that all the Bluebill builders should have Bluebill work aprons. He discussed this idea with me and wondered how he could have them made. I didn't say very much because I knew where this discussion was headed. I thought that perhaps he would think about it for a while and drop the idea. However, that didn't happen and sure enough, he asked me if I would make them. It wouldn't be a big job, he assured me, since they weren't very big. But of course, they would need to have the Boeing Bluebill name on the front. So, this is how I began making 20 work aprons for the Bluebill builders.

The only problem was that all the builders weren't the same size. We had fat ones and skinny ones, short ones and tall ones. So some of the aprons needed to be wider than others and some needed to be longer than others with longer ties. The work aprons got made and distributed to the builders so they all looked like a team when they went out on jobs.

After that, I was careful not to participate in the discussions about the ideas Myron came up with.



WE DO WHAT WE CAN

The Bluebill World Vision programs have been on hold since the lockdown. However, Bill Anstiss, one of our south Jefferson Bluebills, could see the need for many items that may be available from World Vision. He requested a special pickup for things needed by the food banks and gave W/V a list of goods. The good people at World Vision responded in a day or two, saying they had about 20 pallets that we could pick up on Friday, May 30. We picked up literally thousands of tubes of toothpaste, shampoo, wipes, bars of soap, school supplies, toys and other items.

The Quilcene/Brinnon group and ourselves took everything we could handle. The only problem was unloading, which we did directly at the food banks. Because we didn't take any riders, we were understaffed when unloading. That just took a little more work and we have already forgotten that. We had one pallet that the food bank couldn't take and it is in the warehouse. I plan to have a new inventory done and sent out to groups in Jefferson and Kitsap counties to see if anyone wants any of it. I'd like to get the warehouse empty again.

Thanks to the folks making all this possible.

Myron

continued



South Jefferson County Bluebills at World Vision. Note: Social Distancing!
Mike Hyde, Jim Kowalczyk, Mary Kowalczyk, Bill Anstiss, and Wes Dunham.



Mike Force and John Fillers unload at the Tri Area Food Bank.

JefCo Builders

Who was that Masked man?

There were mixed emotions when I received a request from Myron to install grab bars for a Bluebill who is returning home from a hip operation. Gail and I discussed the danger of exposing our family to people and an outside environment and agreed that it would be good to help out in this situation.

It had been months since I was on a Bluebills job to help our needing family. It had also been months that we were socially together with our Bluebills family.

I arrived at the home as scheduled, with face mask on, hands and tools sanitized, and ready to help. I was greeted at the door when I arrived by a sweet lady who said, “I forgot my face mask, I will be right back”.

This was a difficult job, as installing grab bars go, because it involved going through porcelain tile for two of the grab bars. This requires using diamond bits to cut through the tile, and it takes time and persistence. For those who are interested, it takes about 10 minutes to complete a hole and each grab bar has 6 holes. There you are—two grab bars, 12 holes, 2 hours, 2 diamond bits and somewhat tired arms. The other two grab bars were installed in less than half the time.

It was great to finally get out to help our family of neighbors, friends and needy again. I am looking forward to getting started again working with my Bluebills buddies on our building projects.

David Parish

Trestle Table Update

The 25 foot by 5 foot trestle table that Bluebills built for the “Renaissance Garden” at Heronswood Preserve has held up to the weight of the soil and plantings. The “fern table” is a central feature in the garden’s wooded fern stumpery, honoring the S’Klallam who worked in the Port Gamble timber mills in the early 1900s. It will look even better when the plants have filled in and authentic mill camp dining accoutrements, tins and crockery have been added.

Lumber for the table was locally milled and donated by a Bluebills client in Kingston, and trestles were hand crafted by Bluebill Greg DeVault in his woodworking shop. S’Klallam elders are planning to offer a small informal blessing to the Renaissance Garden later this spring or summer, with the big one open to the public later in the summer or fall, subject to the stay-at-home restrictions being lifted.



The largest known fern table in the world, at its location in Heronswood Preserve

The Plans of Mice and Men

The Bluebills Project Handbook offers two construction methods for ramps: site-built and modular. For the modular technique, ramp and platform sections (8-ft nominal lengths) can be built on-site or off-site. These pre-fabricated sections are bolted to the posts using angle brackets and structural screws. Ramps can be taken apart and removed/relocated when a client moves or no longer needs them. Modular ramps are tagged with instructions to call Catholic Community Services (CCS), who then notify Bluebills for ramp removal.

We recently responded to a request to pick up a ramp at a house that had sold. Presumably the new homeowners thought they were doing us a favor by disassembling the ramp themselves – stripping it all the way down to the individual lumber pieces. So it is that the best-laid plans of mice and Bluebills often go awry.



Jim and Kevin McGonigle loading a disassembled ramp & platform



Modular ramp loaded for new destination



Ramps are tagged with phone number to call for removal, but unfortunately this ramp was stripped to its individual components before they called.

Builders Status

JOBS KEEP COMING

Even though many of the care-givers and agencies who give us referrals are closed, we still get job requests, mainly referred from the hospitals.

Bluebills are currently not doing any building but the requests are being logged in and when things open up, the clients will be called to see if our service is still needed.

Right now, in Jefferson Co. we have 19 open projects. Four of these are since we closed down.

Myron

HAVE YOU REPORTED YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS?



**REMEMBER: YOU CAN REPORT ANY
VOLUNTEER HOURS! NOT JUST THE
HOURS YOU WORK FOR BLUEBILLS.
CHURCH, SCHOOL, COMMUNITY~ ALL OF
THESE HOURS COUNT TOO!**

EMAIL YOUR HOURS TO Judy McCay:
jimmccay@cablespeed.com

Volunteer hours for April, 2020

**49 volunteers reported 865 hours. That
is 24.6% of the Bluebill membership
reporting hours for April.**

June Birthdays

JANE OPALKO	6/2
BOB PEDEN	6/2
FRANCISCA GARCIA	6/4
DOUG MCMICKEN	6/6
MARGO ELTON	6/6
BILL TRACEY	6/12
DANIEL HOLTZ	6/14
BARBARA BERTHIAUME	6/16
KAREN GRIFFITH	6/17
DAVID JACKSON	6/18
JACK HIRSCHMANN	6/19
MARK WEAVER	6/19
EVELYN BEQUETTE	6/19
GEORGE COX	6/20
KATHY SNIDER	6/21
JUDY MCCAY	6/23
CAROL GLIDEWELL	6/24
JACK HAWKER	6/24
GENARO GARCIA	6/26
STEVE PETRICK	6/26
MICHAEL BURKE	6/30

Happy Birthday!

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World Vision Essential Supplies

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Dove House Tournament

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