

Bluebill *FLYER*



March 2017

Olympic Peninsula Boeing Bluebills Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



You'll notice something new in this issue. A number of interviews with the Seniors who use the Port Townsend Food Bank. For some time we have been looking for a way to provide some insight into the clients we help. **Karen Griffith** has agreed to be our reporter and cover some of our activities. Karen, along with our photographer, **Peggy Lee Flentie**, attended the Saturday Food Bank in Port Townsend. Saturdays are set aside for those 65 and older. Just the crowd we want to have think about Fall Prevention, and Bluebills were there to offer free grab bars, railings and other minor modifications that help these seniors get around more safely.

We can offer these things free of charge due to the support by Real Estate Professionals for Affordable Housing (REPAH) and Hadlock Building Supply. They provide the grab bars and needed building material.

Bluebills were there every Saturday in February. Fifteen people requested a service of some sort, mostly grab bars. Thanks to Michael Graham, Dick and Vollea Ostlund, John Ratchford and Jo and Dan Nieuwsma for the help.



Karen Griffith, Reporter



Peggy Lee Flentie, Photographer



Bluebill, **Michael Graham**, helping to set up the tables and hand out shopping bags to the shoppers.

BUILDERS

“Needed a ramp to come home to”.

We were anxious to get this ramp installed for a Bremerton client, as he couldn't come home from rehab until the job was done. We would look at the extended weather forecast, pick one of the more promising days, schedule a crew and coordinate with the client and then it would snow or be pouring rain. This happened more than once. So, then we decided to largely ignore the weather forecasters who would show a combination of sun, clouds, rain and snow for virtually every day of the week - how could they be wrong? We identified the days when the schedule would work, then got up on those mornings and made a “Go/No Go” weather call an hour before the start of mission - just like we used to do at Boeing. We got the mission off, and completed it successfully on the 2nd try.

Volunteers: Jerry Enders, David Grellier, Bob Keever

Total Hours: 36

Work performed: Installed 28 foot ramp, installed two threshold ramps.



RAMP ON MARROWSTONE ISLAND

We built this ramp for a woman on Marrowstone who is 98 years old. Still wants to get around. Good for her! Due to weather, the job took a couple of days.



Blue skies when this was taken. Joe Gagnier, Jack Hawker and Schultz, Robert Chanpong and Myron Vogt

A RAMP IN A GARAGE IN SEQUIM

Another happy ramp recipient. It was a little cool but a great success.



These are some of our Sequim crew. Pictured are Dale Blankenship, Leonard Stadtmiller, Mel Rostron and Gene Helmsworth. **Photo by Charlie Johnson**

Multiple Ramps

Here is an unusual ramp that we put in for a person in Port Townsend who uses a walker. He lives alone so has to maintain his ability to get around - to his freezer in the garage, and to the driveway so he can get to the mailbox. In this case, there is a level landing at the back door, so we built a short ramp to another landing and from that landing, a ramp that goes to the garage and a second ramp that goes to the driveway. We also relocated the mailbox and installed a grab bar for this client.



Jack Hawker & Schultz in the foreground. Jo Nieuwsma, Todd Knoblock and Dan Nieuwsma in the background.



The entire crew:
Joe Gagnier, Robert Chanpong, Jo Nieuwsma, Todd Knoblock, Jack Hawker and Dan Nieuwsma.



THE BIRD LADY REVISITED!

By Bob Keever

An article in the January edition of **The Flyer**, entitled “Parrot Sanctuary,” reported in December, repairs that the Bluebill Builders performed for a handicapped client in South Kitsap who provides a sanctuary for unwanted and abandoned parrots. In addition to the repair work, grab bars and a railing were installed to help with her mobility. Then, just before Christmas, at the worst of the cold snap, her neighbor contacted us to report that she was out of wood stove pellets—her sole source of heat—and had no money to purchase more until the end of the month. And by the way, her local food bank was closed until after the holidays, and she was out of food. None of the emergency support agencies could seem to help.

At times like this, one sometimes wonders if the client might be taking advantage of our good nature. On the other hand, the thought of an elderly, low income, handicapped woman being cold and hungry on Christmas weighs heavy on the soul. So we stepped up to the plate and took care of it.

Our Bird Lady’s health took a turn for the worse in mid-January when she was relegated to a wheelchair and unable to get in and out of the house. She had no way of paying for the materials to build a ramp. However, there was another wheelchair client for whom lumber had been delivered just before he passed away. His widow said, “You have just made my day,” when offered the opportunity to donate the materials. Thus, a temporary ramp was installed for the Bird Lady on a day when the ground was so frozen we couldn’t tell if it was cement or ice under the posts.

After things thawed out, we followed up to see about making the ramp more stable. Unfortunately we learned that our Bird Lady’s health had rapidly declined to the point that she had been moved to a nursing home, permanently! I recently stopped by to visit her while in the area. She appeared “shell shocked,” lamenting that her worst fears - losing her independent living - had come to pass. But she was appreciative of the efforts of the Bluebills, adding that we had “restored her faith in humanity.” We wish her the best. Meanwhile, the ramp is slated for its third destination in as many months—a low-income elderly woman in North Kitsap who can no longer lift her legs to negotiate the entry steps.



2017 BUILDERS DATA

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	YTD Total
Grab bars	6	23								29
Ramps	3	5								8
Railings	3	5								8
Miscellaneous	4	4								8
 Total Clients	 22	 29								 51
Total Different Volunteers	12	16							n/a	
									n/a	
Open Projects	50	61								

The weather didn't get much better in February but we did manage to get a few ramps built. A large number of grab bars were installed and we have a lot more to go. Most from the activity at the Saturday Port Townsend Food Bank.

Myron Vogt



SATURDAY AT THE SENIOR'S FOOD BANK

By Karen Griffith, Boeing Bluebill Reporter

It's just another Saturday at the Port Townsend Food Bank, but nobody involved is treating it as routine. The workers arrive early to stock the shelves and make sure all is in order for the 11:30 opening. The shoppers line up in chairs on both sides of the long hall at the bank chatting and waiting, having taken a number for service when they first come in. It's good to



be early, they tell me, so that "pickin's are good".

Larry Scoville, first in line, said he thought it was amazing that "they've held this thing together all these years". He's volunteered here for about a year, when he can make it. He said that by getting food here, he's able to make his Social Security check stretch that much farther.



Jane Evans said having the Food Bank made it possible for her to live here in Port Townsend. Her son and young granddaughter live close by and it makes it easier for her to spend time with them. She lives in subsidized housing.

Others who didn't want to be identified said the Food Bank is "wonderful." One person said she now has extra people living in her house and being able to access the Food Bank means that she has to buy less food at the grocery store. "On Social Security, there's no extra money," she adds.

Another patron said she likes the social hour while they wait in the hall for the Food Bank to open. She said, "there's *everything* here." She pointed out that there are clothes and even free books and magazines. She especially noted the contribution of the Boeing Bluebills when they bring in tooth brushes and toothpaste. "I can't afford those things at the grocery store."



Jim Adams is on a fixed income and finds the Food Bank a "huge help" He says he gets about 50% of the food he eats each month through the FB. He starts shopping here before he goes to the grocery store to fill in what else he needs. "The produce is really great", he observes. Sometimes if it is less than "perfect," he says it is still great for soup or stew. And he notes that nothing goes to waste. What is not picked up by shoppers at either Food Bank opening is given to groups who can use it.



Jeffrey Hall is a volunteer at the Food Bank and has been for the last 6 months. He moved here 7 months ago from Alaska, and his sister suggested he volunteer as a way to meet a lot of new people. His shift is from 8:00~2:30 pm. He picks up weekly donations from Aldrich's Market in Uptown—whatever they have to contribute that week. He was behind a table with dog and cat food and other treats. "People really appreciate getting a little extra help with their pets," he said. Next to the pet food table was a table with miscellaneous household goods that people were encouraged to "shop through" and to avail themselves of whatever they needed.



Nicolas Massie, also a volunteer, is a sophomore at Port Townsend High School, and stood in front of a table laden with pastries, cupcakes, brownies and other baked goods. He started volunteering 3 years ago and says on the first day he "fell in love with it." The people are amazing, he says, and he felt drawn to the work. He finds conversations with his high school peers somewhat boring after seeing what a great service the Food Bank is to our community. He is interested in philosophy and people's lives. He now can see a real life past high school, perhaps law school. "It made me appreciate what I have. It has shown me joy from helping others." He's loved watching the clients come in. He loves seeing the joy a piece of cake can bring to someone.



Ken Matheny retired to Port Townsend awhile ago. He hadn't volunteered before coming here and one day he dropped by and asked if the Food Bank needed help. He sees people in his same circumstances and is happy that he is able to help. He finds the staff friendly and non-judgmental and particularly likes working with the seniors. When asked what was most poignant since becoming a volunteer, he said the number of homeless people who come. There is no means testing for being able to access the Food Bank, other than to be 65 for the Saturday market, and he likes the egalitarian nature of that openness. He thought that about 100 people a week are served, most of them "repeat customers," highlighting the continuing need for the Port Townsend Food Bank.

Shoppers come through with carts, reusable shopping bags, boxes or baskets and leave with items that will make a real difference to their lives...until next Saturday when they line up again in the hall and share stories of their week's activities. Everyone - staff and shoppers - goes home just a little better off than before they came.

All clients whose pictures were used in this article signed release forms.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH



Tuesday, March 7th ~ Pick for Jefferson Co. Be at warehouse at 9:00.

Thursday, March 9th ~ Leadership Team Meeting - Beach Club 3-4pm

Friday, March 10th ~ Deliver World Vision goods to Jefferson Co.

Meet at warehouse at 9:00am

Tuesday, March 14th ~ Pick up goods at World Vision for Kitsap Co.

Be at Fife at 9:00am

Tuesday, March 14th ~ Central Leadership Council meeting in Seattle

10:00 - 11:00am

Monday, March 20th ~ 2017 Initiative meeting at Bay Club 1:00-3:00pm

March 2017						
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	31	



March Birthdays

Tom Conley, March 2nd

Todd Knoblock, March 3rd

Vollea Ostlund, March 6th

Charlie Johnson, March 9th

Myron Vogt, March 10th

Anne Ricker, March 12th

Jim Knight, March 14th

Michael Eastman, March 15th

Howard Schaible, March 19th

Cynthia Durham, March 23rd



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
THESE HOURS COUNT TOO!**

Volunteer hours for January, 2017

**46 Bluebills reported 942 hours.
That is 24.7% of Bluebills reporting.**

OFFICERS & PROGRAM CHAIRS

CHAIR ~ Barbara Berthiaume
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SECOND VICE CHAIR ~ Bob Keever
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WORLD VISION SCHOOLS SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION

Dick Ostlund dickostlund@gmail.com

CONTINUED

WORLD VISION ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES ~ Myron Vogt

Kitsap Co. Coordinator:	Ed Berthiaume	edberthiaume@gmail.com
Clallam Co. Coordinator:	Larry Lang	parkbear47@yahoo.com
Jefferson Co. Coordinator:	Erica Mayfield	emayfield@q.com
Hood Canal Coordinator:	Bonnie Douglass	lbdouglass@wildblue.net

SCHOOL WEEK-END FEEDING PROGRAM

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