

PSO BLUEBILL

FLYER

June 2021



PSO Bluebill Newsletter

Serving Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties



Chair
David Jackson

From the Chair

By
David Jackson



Vice-Chair
Robert Chanpong

What, Why and Who

First, Bluebills are still the Bluebills !!!

What: As many of you are noticing the Boeing Bluebills are now the PSO (Peninsula Support Organization) Bluebills. As in most organizations or relationships, change is a part of growing. The Boeing organization helped start the Bluebills and supported it for many, many years. However, over the last three years Boeing has been unable to support us and has closed down the Bluebills offices near the old Boeing Headquarters. That said, a big THANK YOU Boeing is in order. Without them the Bluebills wouldn't have become what we are today.

Why: Under Boeing we, the Bluebills, were restricted to Boeing funding only and retired Boeing employees only as volunteers.

continued

With the foresight and wisdom of Barbara Berthiaume, Jay Gilmor and Myron Vogt, the PSO a non-profit organization for both tax purposes and the ability to raise funds, was started. Under the PSO, the Bluebills can recruit anyone as a volunteer, and we can raise funding from any source. This change allows us the ability to do even more for our communities!

Who: The PSO was originally chaired by Myron (thanks Myron). STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education support was the first program under the PSO umbrella, led by Bob Reasoner (thanks Bob). Bob in turn asked me (Dave Jackson) to lead the STEM program, which I am honored to do. When Myron moved most recently, he ask if I could also chair the PSO. I said I would do my best. As these changes were occurring, Barbara and others made a case for the Bluebills to also be under the PSO umbrella, with the vision for the Bluebills to remain the Bluebills. Now, all of the Bluebills programs are under the PSO umbrella: Food Banks, Fall Prevention, Aging in Place, Advocacy Support, School Supply Distribution, the Christmas Giving Program and STEM.

Chair - Dave Jackson

Vice Chair - Robert Chanpong

Secretary (and Mentor) - Barbara Berthiaume

Treasurer - Mike Burke

The Bluebills are greatly respected and needed in our communities. The PSO allows us to raise funding, awareness, and to have open recruiting. We can do more with more as we continue to help those in need within our communities on the Peninsula.

All the best,

Dave Jackson

PSO Chair

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Peninsula Support Organization (PSO)
Bluebills

THANK YOU!



Valeria and I want to thank all of you who were so kind to send us pictures and stories about our life in Port Ludlow and involvement with the Bluebills.

We are pretty well settled into our new place and spend most of the time now, on doctoring.

Again, thanks to you all,

Myron and Valeria



GOLFERS

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, August 27, 2021

Bluebills

Dove House Benefit Golf Tournament

Port Ludlow players - Members - \$65

Non Members - \$110

Cost includes: Golf cart, box lunch, winner prizes, awards ceremony with spaghetti dinner, free wine and beer bar.

Sign-up forms will be available at the Pro Shop starting in July.

Or, send players' names and check made out to Dove House.

Dove House, 1045 10th St., Port Townsend, WA 98368

**For more information: Robert Chanpong, 925-360-4360,
chanpr@hotmail.com**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HURTS!

JEFFERSON COUNTY NEEDS YOUR HELP.

NO MORE

TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT.

Dove House Benefit Golf Tournament
Friday, August 27, 2021

Port Ludlow Golf Course, Port Ludlow, WA

Be a player or a sponsor

Call: Robert Chanpong 925 360-4360 or
Barbara Berthiaume 360 437-0423






A Boeing Bluebill Sponsored Event

June Calendar

- June 8 WV Jefferson County Pick Up- 9:00 AM in Fife
Unload and inventory- 11:30 at Chimacum Warehouse
- June 14 Flag Day
- June 15 WV Jefferson County Pick- 9:30 at Chimacum Warehouse
Delivery to Food Banks
- June 18 WV Jefferson County Delivery- 9:30 at Chimacum Warehouse
- June 20 Father's Day

Here are the July dates for Kitsap County World Vision:
 July 13th Pick Up supplies and inventory
 July 20th Pick for Kitsap County
 July 23th Delivery to Kitsap County clients

June 2021

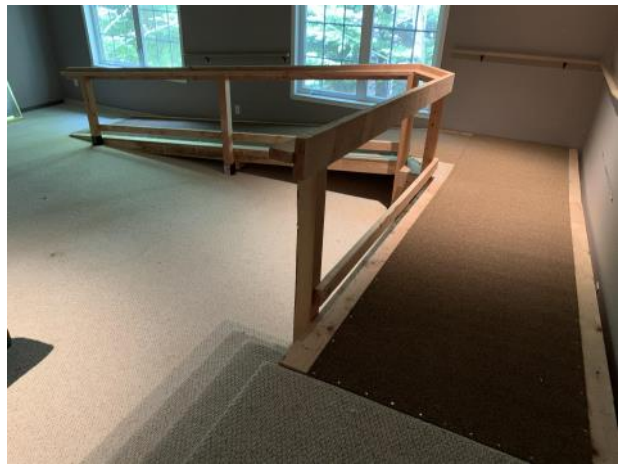
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 	9	10	11	12
13	14 	15 	16	17	18 	19
20 	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Builders Pages

JeffCo Builders

Indoor Ramp

This project was for a wheelchair-bound client who had difficulty with access leaving and entering his home and to additional living space. He is delighted with the Bluebills' work and how this project opened up more to his life. The project was completed by John Fillers, Richard Meyers, Rick Morasco and led by David Parrish.



Jon Fillers and Rick Morasco. Photo by David Parrish

JeffCo Builders

Creativity in a Pinch

The client is an amputee and was unable to get up or down the cinderblock stairs. Without a railing or reasonable riser spacing, even his wife had difficulty with the stairs. The project was complicated by the need to occasionally move the trailer. It was further complicated by outrageous and changing lumber prices. Our solution was to build a ramp with a railing on one side only. The other had a straight side with no exposed posts or obstructions. Hopefully, this will allow them good access to the trailer and the ability to back the trailer in close to the ramp side. The American Legion, Marvin G. Shields Memorial Post #26, and the Port Townsend Elks Lodge helped make this ramp possible. Builders were Dave Parish, Denny Schuch, Dan Nieuwsma, John Fillers, and Richard Meyers. The builders (and diggers) are getting fast and efficient. We finished and cleaned up in just under 4 hours.



No handrails made this difficult to negotiate



Dave Parrish, Richard Meters, Dan Nieuwsma, Denny Schuch, and John Fillers

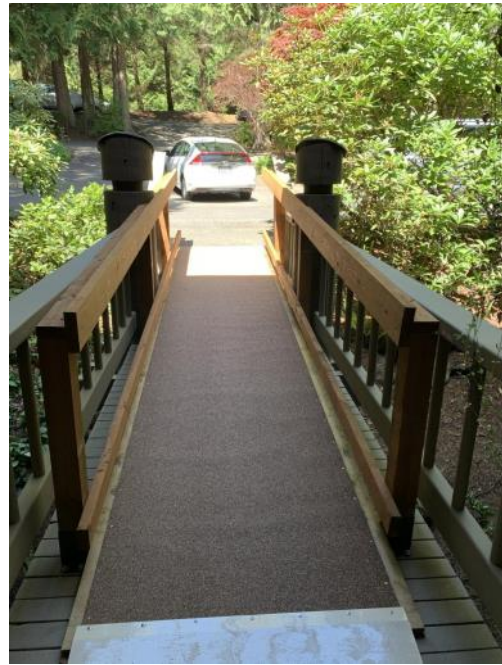
JeffCo Builders

Another Great Ramp!

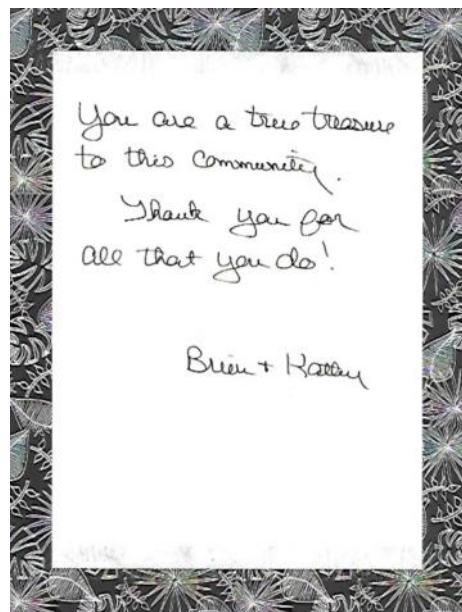
All the neighbors in the condo are very pleased with the ramp. The clients are appreciative for our quick response and the quality of our work. They gave a \$1,000 donation to Bluebills Builders along with a nice note. Thanks to the team of Richard Meyers, Denny Schuch, and Dave Parrish.



Richard Meyers and Dave Parrish
Denny Schuch not shown.



Completed ramp.



JeffCo Builders

Looks Simple But Meant A Lot

Bluebills responded to help a lady in need without funds. We installed grab bars in her shower with no charge for materials. We also found materials in our warehouse to build her a rail down her front steps. She was extremely appreciative for Bluebills' response to her needs. It took some persistence to make this happen, as she was not able to respond to phone calls attempting to schedule our help. - David Parrish



JeffCo Builders

Behind The Scenes - Bluebills At Home

Joe Gagnier and Todd Knoblock obtained materials and fabricated ramp ends then delivered them to our warehouse. Dave Parrish moved the first batch to his makeshift paint shop under his home and started finishing work. Each ramp end gets an oil based prime coat, oil-based finish coat, then top surface receives second finish coat with crushed walnut shells for a non-skid surface. With drying time involved, the process takes about six days. As the picture shows, we do about seven ramp ends at a time.

Bluebills charge only \$25 for a ramp end — another great bargain for our clients.



Kitsap Builders

Back to Work

Following a year or so of being held back by Covid, and now after being fully vaccinated, Bluebills are back on the job. As retirees, we don't work for paychecks these days, except the kind of payoff that rewards us with a warm glow of satisfaction. We are at work on projects that are making our communities better places to live.

The goal of our Independent Living Program is to keep elderly and handicapped people in their own homes as long as possible. We do this by making the home as safe and accessible as we can. Common projects include ramp construction, grab bar installation, handrail installation, transfer pole installation, chair/sofa risers, and minor repairs relating to safety and ease of living.

The average age of our volunteers is somewhere around 70. After an 8 hour day of hard labor – with a 5 minute break for lunch – building wheelchair ramps, installing railings, grab bars, performing other fall prevention tasks, and trying to get caught up with the backlog, we return home sore from our bad backs, bad knees, and general out-of-shapendness. So what's up with that? Maybe it's because if we don't do it, who else will? Then again, to quote Alfred P. Doolittle:

The Lord above gave man an arm of iron
So he could do his job and never shirk
The Lord above gave man an arm of iron
But, with a little bit of luck, with a little bit of luck
Someone else will do the blinkin' work



Bluebill Builders

One important facet of the PSO Bluebills activities is the Independent Living Program, serving the Kitsap, Jefferson and Clallam counties. Modeled after a program developed by the AARP, the Bluebills help identify and correct housing problems that interfere with or prevent the occupant from safely performing the day-to-day functions necessary to live at home, focusing on safety.

To put it plainly, the Bluebills Builders install grab bars, railings and ramps for guarding against falls which can lead to serious injury and immobility. No one is excluded from the program because of income. Labor is free from our volunteers, but recipients may be asked to contribute toward the cost of materials. Since the beginning of the year, the Builders have answered more than 30 requests for grab bars and ramps in the local area between Port Townsend and Port Ludlow. Several projects are pending and new requests come in every week.

Several Bluebills make up a core of experienced Builders. Each can survey the ramp area, design the ramp according to regulations and manage its construction. All ramps are built with the approval of the recipient who may be present the day of the build. Grab bars are installed in strategic places, where hand holds make for safer transition from sitting to standing, or for stability. After each project is completed, it is rewarding to know that the result means a safer home for the recipient. The Builders are busy and now with the drier, sunny weather, building activity has increased.

Volunteers are welcome!

Robert Chanpong



From the Wayback Machine From the June 2011 Bluebill Flyer

Bluebills of the Olympic Peninsula

June 2011

Grab Bar Installation by the Bluebills



On May 12th, Mike Graham and I attended the Older Americans Annual Conference in Bremerton, WA. There was over 1200 people in attendance, most over 60 years old. We manned a booth with a theme of Independent Living in a safe environment. We stressed the important of safe access into every room in their home. Grab-bars, stair railings, removing throw rugs, etc. and how they can obtain assistance in having these safety features installed in their home.

We have already received requests for Lifeline and grab bar installations from attendees of the conference and we expect many more. Marvin Segar

The Bluebills and the Brinnon Shrimp Fest



Shelley and Russ Rousseau at the Bluebill booth in Brinnon.

The Brinnon Shrimp Fest was a two day event attended by an estimated 10,000 people.

Also working a shift in the booth were Michael Graham and Marvin Segar, John and Cindy Hollister, and Myron Vogt and Davis Steelquist.

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, 2021

41 volunteers reported 867 hours. That is 21% 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!



OFFICERS

CHAIR ~ David Jackson	david.jackson@wavecable.com
VICE CHAIR ~ Robert Chanpong	chanpr@hotmai.com
SECRETARY ~ Barbara Berthiaume	barbara.berthiaume@gmail.com
TREASURER ~ Michael Burke	mikebarb1975@centurylink.net

PROGRAM CHAIRS

Builders	Robert Chanpong	chanpr@hotmai.com
Regional Coordinators		
Clallam Co.	Charlie Johnson	racer6j@hotmail.com
Jefferson Co.	Robert Chanpong	chanpr@hotmai.com
Kitsap Co.	Bob Keever	stableguy@hotmail.com
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Publicity	Barbara Berthiaume	barbara.berthiaume@gmail.com
Web site	Tom Sprandel	tgsz@protonmail.com

World Vision Essential Supplies

Mike and Barbara Burke mikebarb1975@centurylink.net

World Vision School Supply Distribution

Ed Berthiaume edberthiaume@gmail.com

World Vision Regional Coordinators

Clallam Co. John Behrens JEBWA52@aol.com

Karen Easterly-Behrens KAEB55@aol.com

Jefferson Co. Mike and Barb Burke mikebarb1975@centurylink.net

Hood Canal Bill and Candy Anstiss billandcandya@gmail.com

Kitsap Co. Calvin Williams willica05@gmail.com

School Weekend Feeding Program

Chimacum School Barbara Berthiaume barbara.berthiaume@gmail.com

Quilcene & Brinnon Bonnie Douglass bdouglass@wildblue.com

Sequim Schools Charlie Johnson racer6j@hotmail.com

Fall Prevention Dave Parrish parrishdav@aol.com

Regional Coordinators

Clallam Co. Charlie Johnson racer6j@hotmail.com

Jefferson Co. Dave Parrish parishdav@aol.com

Kitsap Co. Bob Keever stableguy@hotmail.com

Dove House Tournament

Barbara Berthiaume barbara.berthiaume@gmail.com

Robert Chanpong chanpr@hotmai.com

Barbara Burke mikebarb1975@centurylink.net

Rick Smith richard.j.smith@edwardjones.com

Jefferson Co. Homeless / Dove House Support

Laura Paul rlep@yahoo.com