

PSO BLUEBILL FLYER December 2024



PSO Bluebill Newsletter Serving Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties



Vice Chair
Bob Keever

December 2024 Note From the Vice Chair By Bob Keever

Are the Bluebills a first line of defense, or a last line of defense when it comes to protecting the independent living of elderly, handicapped, and disadvantaged persons?

Historically, we have been more of a first line of defense, with our independent living efforts focused on fall prevention and accessibility. It costs about \$20 for a grab bar, whereas a fall in the bathroom, a broken hip, emergency response, hospitalization, and rehab costs a whole lot more.

As mentioned in the October Flyer article, "Bluebills Mobile Home Park Outreach," Jeff Young explained how our mission of helping people live independently in their homes has been expanded to include keeping people from losing their homes.

On October 17, Bluebills took a Kitsap Sun reporter and photographer on a half-day tour of 4 low-income mobile home parks in south and central Kitsap where residents are under increasing threat of eviction by large investment companies who have been buying up these parks. Many sad and disturbing stories were told by our clients, and we were able to show what Bluebills are doing as a last line of defense to help them from becoming homeless. Kitsap Sun ran the story in their Thanksgiving day edition, including a photo of David Negrones, Bluebills volunteer handyman, who celebrated his 88th birthday by showing up wearing his toolbelt for a work day at Pinewood Mobile Home Park in Bremerton.

Whether it's the first, last, or only line of defense, Bluebills are often the go-to place for those in need when they're out of other options.

Cheers!
Bob Keever



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[To read past editions of the FLYER, click here.](#)

Donations to the PSO Bluebills can be sent to:
Peninsula Support Organization/Bluebills
PO BOX 65098
PORT LUDLOW, WA 98365

Or Online:

DONATE



[**For a Copy of the Bylaws of the PSO Click Here.**](#)

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Bluebills Featured in Kitsap Sun Article



The Kitsap Sun ran a front-page article in their Thanksgiving edition about the Bluebills outreach at low-income mobile home parks in Kitsap county. The link to it is:

www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/2024/11/25/volunteer-handymen-expandranks-to-help-mobile-home-park-tenants/76237770007/

The gist of the article is that there is a problem of folks being forced out of their manufactured homes in mobile home parks that have been bought out by large investment companies, and there is a growing movement in Kitsap County led, in part by the PSO Bluebills to intervene, and help these people to succeed, and avoid becoming homeless.

The Sun article featured tenants from Olympic View Community, the Poulsbo Mobile Home Park, the Pinewood Mobile Home Park, and Berry Lake Mobile Manor that have been helped by the Bluebills.

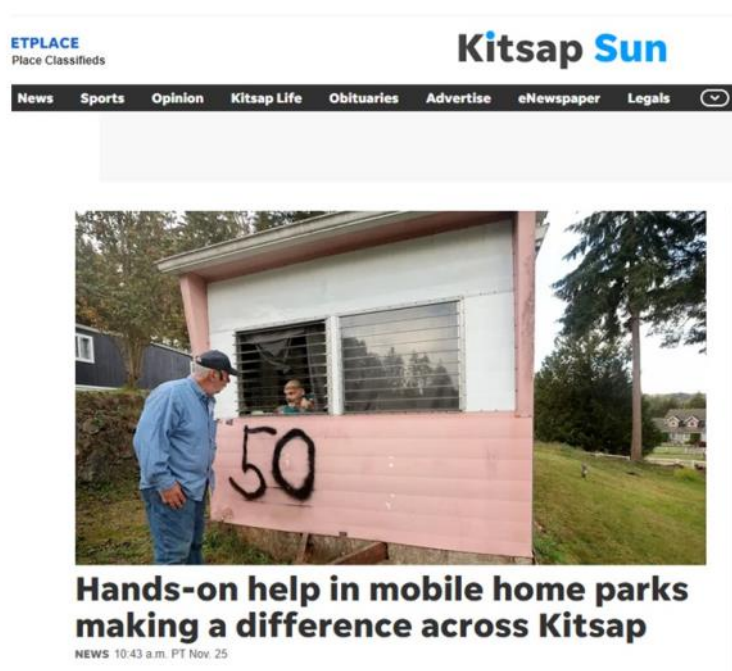
Bluebill members John Bilides, Bob Keever, Graig DeVault, David Negrones, Bruce Weber and Jeff Young were mentioned in the article, a few of the many volunteers working on these projects.

The Kitsap Sun article is pretty in depth and worth reading. If you are having no success at locating the article on line or in finding a copy of the “Thanksgiving Edition” of the Kitsap Sun, email the editor of the Bluebill Flyer, and I will send you an copy: jim.mueller@psobbluebills.net

Bob Keever stated in the article:

“We're getting lots of members, but we're needing more funds because we pay for all the materials in addition to the free labor we provide,” Keever said.

“Half the clients can afford nothing for materials, so we do a lot of salvaging, repurposing. Just anytime Home Depot has sales on lumber... we go and grab it all up. We do get some donations and we beg, borrow and steal.”



Christmas Giving Project

Time for the OlyCap Family Gift giving. This year we have 29 kids from 0-18 years old. The PSO/Bluebills collect monies from Bluebills and the Port Ludlow community then divide it between the 29 kids, usually it has been 75-100.00 to spend on each kid. According to their age, sizes and interests, shoppers buy toys, books and clothes for each one. They are wrapped then grouped by family unit and delivered to OlyCap in Port Townsend December 19th for them to deliver. We do need shoppers so contact me at laura.paul@psobluebills.net

To join us, please send checks made out to "PSO/Bluebills", memo: Christmas, mailed to PSO/Bluebills, P.O. Box 65098, Port Ludlow, WA 98365.

Thank you for helping these kids have a special Christmas this year.

We Have Not Met Our Christmas Giving Funding Goal. Please Send In Your Check Today!

Thanks You,
Laura Paul



Calander For December

Dexember 25 Merry Christmas!

DECEMBER 2024

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				

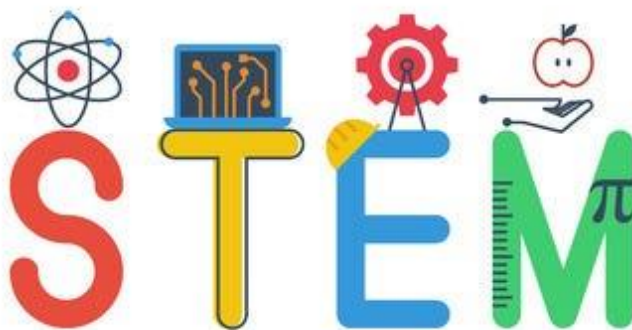
Local School Hosts Western Regional Robotics Competition

Chimacum Elementary School 5th graders will be hosting the Western Washington Regional Robotics Competition on December 7th. This will be the first ever Washington State Regional Competition held at Chimacum. Winners of the competition will go on the state finals. This is a real big deal for our area! This year's theme is: 'Our Oceans.' The ocean is more than what you can see on the horizon. Beneath the surface lies our planet's most complex ecosystems, full of life and potential for exploration and learning, where each inhabitant has a role to play in building a thriving environment.

Kids have a natural curiosity, creativity, and desire to explore. The PSO Bluebills support this via the power of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) to inspire their innovative spirit and boost self-esteem. Through FIRST Robotics program we introduce students to engineering and coding in an engaging and creative learning environment. The students work collaboratively to solve the years challenge. Along the way, they will uncover the potential in each of themselves to strengthen our community and innovate for a better world with healthy oceans.

Please come out and cheer our young people from our local area on. You never know you might just learn something and enjoy yourselves.

Dave Jackson
STEM Coordinator



Please Remember OlyCap!



I help collect for OlyCap and we usually have a good variety for the families to start a new life in an apartment. We do, however need bathroom towels and single and twin sheet sets.

If you are doing a deep clean or moving, contact me at :laura.paul@psobluebills.net with OlyCap in the subject area. Thank you for helping.

Laura Paul, 360-344-2494.

If you have any furniture items, call OlyCap, 360-385-2571.

Click on the OlyCap logo below for more information about OlyCap

Thank



You!

Dove House is in need of donations of feminine hygiene products.

Please drop off unopened packages of pads and tampons at the front desks of the Bay Club or the Beach Club.

OR

If you choose, Dove House has a Wishlist published on Amazon. You can have the products sent directly to them. Click on this link, [Amazon Wishlist](#) and send it to this address:

Dove House

1045 10th St., Port Townsend, WA 98368

Thank You!



We Weather The Weather Whether We Like It Or Not!

Bomb Cyclone be damned--John Fillers and Glen Bell committed to our ramp build even with the weather forecast. Yes, there was heavy rain and wind on and off during the day. Our client needed her existing ramp that was too steep and had history of her falling on it to be replaced with a ramp with a more gradual slope and handrails. Our client was able to contribute for part of the cost and Bluebills contributed for most of the cost of the materials. Even though John and Glen had to move stacked firewood to make room for ramp posts and rails, they were able to get the ramp built in one day. Bluebills normally has 4-5 builders participating on ramp projects like this. They obviously worked hard and fast to get the job done, and they did it maintaining our high standards of workmanship. Our client was elated with her new ramp and said she feels more safe when leaving and entering her home. - Dave Parrish



Old dangerous ramp



New ramp with platform and handrails.
Client on left with Glen Bell and John
Fillers

HAVE YOU REPORTED YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS?

**Please remember to send in 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!

Boeing used to give us some funding, and the allocation was tied in to the volunteer hours. Currently we use the data when making presentations, asking for grant money, and also as an internal metric to self-gauge how we're doing.

Please email your hours to Judy McCay:

judy.mccay@psobluebills.net

Volunteer hours for October, 2024

34 Bluebills reported 1281 volunteer hours for the month of October. That is 16.4% of our membership reporting hours.

OFFICERS

CHAIR ~ Vacant

VICE CHAIR ~ Bob Kever bob.keever@psobluebills.net

SECRETARY~ Michael Crovitz michael.crovitz@psobluebills.net

TREASURER~ Michael Burke mike.burke@psobluebills.net

BOARD MEMBER ~ Jim Mueller jim.mueller@psobluebills.net

BOARD MEMBER ~ Bruce Weber bruce.weber@psobluebills.net

BOARD MEMBER ~ Calvin Williams calvin.williams@psobluebills.net

PROGRAM CHAIRS

Builders / Fall Prevention

Jefferson Co. Calvin Williams calvin.williams@psobluebills.net

Kitsap Co. Bob Kever bob.keever@psobluebills.net

Education David Jackson david.jackson@psobluebills.net

Twyla Jackson twyla.jackson@psobluebills.net

**The Flyer
Newsletter** Jim Mueller jim.mueller@psobluebills.net

Historian Jim Mueller jim.mueller@psobluebills.net

**Volunteer
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Membership Calvin Williams calvin.williams@psobluebills.net

Photography John Fillers jd.fillers@psobluebills.net

Publicity Vacant

Web Site Tom Sprandel tom.sprandel@psobluebills.net

Dove House Tournament

Barbara Burke

mike.burke@psobluebills.net

Carole Fett

c.fett@psobluebills.net98607

Jefferson Co. Homeless / Oly Cap / Dove House Support

Laura Paul

laura.paul@psobluebills.net

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Bluebills**

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