

Drainage District Election Approved

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners met on May 16th at the Beach Club in what could be described as one of the shortest public meetings on record. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a public forum on the issue of creating a Drainage District for the North Bay. A small but enthusiastic crowd was on hand and provided input to the Commissioners.

Only four members of the audience addressed the Commissioners with somewhat the same message. They all testified in essence that although they had solved their own drainage problems they felt that the overall problem was a community issue that ultimately could only be solved with community action, i.e. a Drainage District.

Bob Balck an LMC member who is building his retirement home on Montgomery Court told the Commissioners that he had spent the equivalent of the cost of a small home to insure that his foundation was anchored to the bluff in such a way to preclude any possibility of erosion. He also told the Commissioners that he and his neighbors had at their own expense corrected a drainage problem so that their properties would be protected. Nonetheless, Mr. Balck felt that the only long-term remedy to drainage problems was the formation of a District and he urged the Commissioners to approve the election process. (The voters in a special election must approve the District before it can be formed.)

Ron Gregory, a local builder, told the Commissioners that unless the law of gravity was rescinded, water will continue to flow downhill and will continue to be a problem to the North Bay. He urged them to approve the District election.

Jim Brannaman, President of the LMC, told the Commissioners that the LMC was totally in support of the formation of the District and he also asked them to approve the election. All of those who spoke favored the District as a long-term solution to the problem of drainage.

The Commissioners acted swiftly to approve the Special Election to be held on September 19th. The next step, if the District is approved by the voters is for the Commissioners to name 3 District Commissioners to serve until 2002 when a formal election of District Commissioners can occur in accordance with Washington State law.

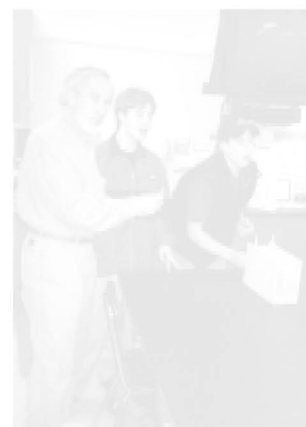
Bluebills an Opportunity to Serve

The purpose of the Olympic Peninsula Bluebills is to provide opportunities for all retirees (not only Boeing retirees) and their spouses to volunteer their time, energy, skills, knowledge and experience to enhance their own lives and to improve the quality of life in their respective communities and in all of Jefferson, Clallam and Kitsap Counties. Groups of Bluebills are active in Port Townsend, Port Angeles, Sequim and North Kitsap County.

The Bluebills are active in a number of volunteer projects. Many Port Ludlow residents are active in this service organization.

Students in Port Townsend High School have been conducting science and engineering experiments in the homeroom of physics teacher John Van Auken since September. They formed a club sponsored by the Olympic Peninsula Bluebills. The Bluebills obtained a \$1500 grant from the Boeing Company to pay for the student club materials and kits from an organization called Future Scientists and Engineers of America (FSEA). They are a non-profit organization that provides lesson plans, project material, documentation and awards for school technology clubs. Their goal is to give students an opportunity to experience engineering and science through use of hands-on experiments. The FSEA is supported by the National Science Foundation and by grants from industry. There are over 100 student clubs in the country each of which is sponsored by a private company, professional society or community organization.

These projects are designed to demonstrate to the students various scientific principles and the practical engineering hands-on way to design and construct their models. The enthusiasm of the students, many of whom have little exposure or inclination to science and engineering, was encouraging.



Bluebills mentor volunteer Bert Goldstein.

The Bluebills have an office in the Skookum Industries Building in Port Townsend and can be reached at 360-385-4980, ext 115. Anyone interested in participating in these activities can contact us at our office or call one of your neighbors.