

Annual Bluebird Society meeting scheduled for April 27

Staff Report

The Bella Vista Bluebird Society is holding its annual meeting for the public from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at the Bella Vista Public Library. The meeting will give some history and functions of BVBBS, talk about the need for bluebird nest boxes and the monitoring and maintaining of a box. There will be bluebird's nests and eggs on display, as well as other birds that nest in bluebird boxes. Various handouts will be available.

The BVBBS is a volunteer organization dedicated to providing safe nesting boxes for eastern bluebirds. It is an affiliate of the North America Bluebird Society, which was founded in 1978 to promote the preservation of bluebirds, a species in decline due to the loss of natural nesting habitats

by human expansion and also by nonnative species (starlings and house sparrows) taking over their nests. From 1940 to 1990, the population of bluebirds across the U.S. was estimated to have declined by an estimated 90%.

The BVBBS was started in 1980. Since that time, it has helped fledge (leave the nest) more than 46,000 bluebirds. The Bella Vista annual fledging rate now runs between 1,500 and 2,000 per year, which is why almost everyone in Bella Vista is familiar with bluebirds, particularly around the golf courses, where the nest boxes at one time established the yardage markers for the courses.

The BVBBS currently has almost 50 volunteers maintaining over 500 bluebird boxes located on the seven golf courses, plus the local parks, cemetery, church-

es, Concordia, Lake Bella Vista, Loch Lomond park and marina, and residential areas.

The Library is located at 11 Dickens Place. For more information about BVBBS and bluebirds, visit the website at bvbluebirds.com. For more information, please email bellavistabluebird@gmail.com.



Courtesy image

The Bella Vista Bluebird Society was established in 1980. On May 8, 1990, the Bella Vista Village Pride Committee named the eastern bluebird as Bella Vista's "Official Bird." This was confirmed by a vote of property owners via balloting in *The Weekly Vista*. The results of that balloting ran 8-1 in favor of the bluebird.