

# Home Trust News

Home Trust of Skagit

www.hometrustedofskagit.org

April 2018

## Rep. Larsen Visits Channel Cove

U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen visited the Channel Cove neighborhood in La Conner, on March 30, 2018, to meet with understand the relationship between Home Trust of Skagit and Skagit Habitat for Humanity and to meet homeowners.

Larsen visited with officers and staff from the two organizations, and toured homes owned by Echo Arsenau and Maria Rojas-Parra.

Home Trust of Skagit board president Kent Haberly explained to Larsen that all the homes on the properties are in Home Trust's community land trust. Haberly also stressed how important federal funding is to Home Trust so that it can keep building projects that benefit new homeowners.

"We definitely need your help," Haberly said.

Channel Cove consists of nine owner-occupied homes and 18 rental properties. Three homeowners purchased their home from Home Trust. Five homes are occupied by residents, including Arsenau and Rojas-Parra, who purchased their home from Skagit

## Congressional Cove Visit



Channel Cove homeowner Echo Arsenau talks to Congressman Rick Larsen during his visit to Channel Cove on March 30, 2018.

Habitat. Home Trust now is on track to build five more units at Channel Cove.

The two organizations also have partnered to create Summerlynd, a 11-home high-density neighborhood in downtown Mount Vernon. Nine homes currently are complete.

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## Home Trust Celebrates with 10th Annual Meeting

Home Trust of Skagit held its 10th annual meeting on March 20, 2018 with more than 40 people from the community in attendance.

Executive Director Jodi Monroe presented an annual report that featured pictures of homeowners who are members of the community land trust. Twenty-three owner-occupied homes are in the community land trust. Eighteen rentals are in the trust, as well.

Home Trust of Skagit Board President Kent Haberly thanked many in attendance who have been

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Board President Kent Haberly thanks board member Germaine Kornegay for her service on the board of directors for two years.

## Executive's Corner



Hello everyone and thank you for reading our good works! I enjoy sharing positive outcomes about people in our community. Lately, that's all that has been on my mind. I believe we're here on earth to make a positive difference in the lives of others. The mission here at Home Trust

of Skagit fits perfectly because everyday becomes a new opportunity to help people.

Recently, we were able to hire a new grounds keeper for Channel Cove. Rather than hire a landscaping company, which there are many in Skagit County, we decided to make a change and hire someone who needed a second chance and support. His name is Jeff. He takes so much pride in his work....mowing, trimming and edging the park-like setting at Channel Cove. It's just a good match. Serendipity!

Tune in to our new podcast called "Everybody's Neighbor - A Housing People Podcast," where we plan to make it a platform to learn from people from whom we generally do not hear. Often we hear about the housing crisis from policy makers and government officials. We would like to share stories from the people who live in the heat of it.

I'd like to hear from you and to learn how you're making a difference. My email is [jodimonroe@hometrustedofskagit.org](mailto:jodimonroe@hometrustedofskagit.org).

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instrumental in Home Trust's success, including Skagit County government. Commissioners Ron Wesen and Lisa Janicki were present. Haberly also noted the contributions from the City of Mount Vernon, Community Frameworks, BYK Construction, Fisher and Sons, Skagit Habitat and Bellingham-Based Caliber Home Loans officer Josh Henry.

Haberly also acknowledged three members whose terms expired and were leaving the board of directors. Haberly thanked Gabriel Olmsted, Susan

Rowe, and Germaine Kornegay for their contributions to the board. Olmsted is one of the original Home Trust of Skagit board members. Rowe completed two terms as member of the board. Kornegay completed one term and is a Sedro-Woolley city council member.

Jessie Turner, who serves as a legislative liaison for community land trust organizations in Washington state, spoke

about the success of state legislation that gives community land trust organizations the same property tax exemption granted to other organizations while land they own is being developed for affordable homeownership.

Monroe told the audience that Home



**Kent Haberly thanks Gabriel Olmsted for his three terms as a board member at the Home Trust of Skagit annual meeting March 20.**

Trust will soon begin construction on phase two of Channel Cove, in La Conner, that will result in five more townhomes occupied by homebuyers.

Home Trust will hold a fundraising event in the fall and encourages supporters to donate to the community land trust so that others have the opportunity to own their own home.



**Michael Boss congratulates departing board member Susan Rowe for her years of service to Home Trust of Skagit.**

# Home Trust Board Elects New Officers, Board Members

The Home Trust of Skagit board of directors elected its new slate of officers at its regular April 16th meeting in Mount Vernon.

Wendie Granberg will take over as president from Kent Haberly, who will continue to serve on the board as past president. Kari Kennedy will serve as vice-president. Lynn Christofersen and Becki Bell will continue in their respective roles as secretary and treasurer.



Wendie Granberg

The board of directors also welcomed new members Carla Lee, Jeff Mount, and Kelly Kjarstad.

Carla Lee is a loan officer with People’s Bank in Mount Vernon and serves on the Kulshan Community Land Trust Board of Trustees.

Jeff Mount is a relative newcomer to the state of Washington, having moved to Anacortes three years ago. Since that time, Jeff has become a member of the Skagit County Democrats, is a commissioner on the Anacortes Planning Commission, and serves as a volunteer with Community Action of Skagit County and the Lincoln Theatre.

Kelly Kjarstad is a homeowner representative as a resident of the Summerlynd community land trust neighborhood, where she purchased her first home.

The board members are filling committee spots. One does not need to be a board member to be on a committee. Members with Home Trust of Skagit are highly encouraged to serve. Call the office at (360) 428-0014, or e-mail Jodi Monroe at [jodimonroe@hometrustedofskagit.org](mailto:jodimonroe@hometrustedofskagit.org)

The next board of directors meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m., May 15. All board of directors meetings take place at the Union Block building conference room located at 325 Pine St., in Mount Vernon.

## *New Community Land Trust*



The newly-formed Homes & Hope Community Land Trust in Snohomish County held its initial membership drive April 4 at the Edmonds Library. Jodi Monroe is standing next to Kim Toskey, the initiator and president of Homes and Home CLT. Jodi served for a year on the new organization’s start-up board.

Home Trust of Skagit enjoys partnerships with many organizations, including other community land trusts in the Pacific Northwest. Home Trust will participate as a sponsoring organization with the Northwest Community Land Trust Coalition in Bend, Oregon, May 22-24, 2018.

## *Tribute to Volunteers*



On April 17, Skagit County Commissioners Ron Wesen and Ken Dahlstedt declared April as Skagit Volunteer Month. Volunteers with our partners at Community Action and the Skagit County United Way were on hand as the commissioners recognized their achievements. In the picture holding the proclamation is Echo Arsenau, a resident of Channel Cove in La Conner and Skagit Habitat homeowner. Echo is also the donor and volunteer coordinator with the Skagit County United Way.

## Home Trust Speaking at La Conner Kiwanis May 9

Home Trust will speak to the La Conner Kiwanis Club on Wednesday, May 9, at La Conner Retirement Inn, 204 N. First St., in La Conner. Meeting will start at 8 a.m. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. Come lend your support.

## Home Trust to Speak at La Conner Town Council June 26

Home Trust of Skagit will update the La Conner Town Council on its Channel Cove plans at 6 p.m., on Tuesday, April 24, at Maple Hall, 104 Commercial Street.

## Home Trust at La Conner Rotary Aug. 20

Mark your calendars for Aug. 20 at 5:35 p.m. when Home Trust speaks to the La Conner Rotary Club on Monday, Aug. 20, at the Farmhouse Restaurant, 13724 La Conner-Whitney Road. Come lend your support.

## Salmon Time



Community Outreach Coordinator Bill Craig, who also is a member of Mount Vernon Kiwanis Noon Club, cooks some salmon at the annual Kiwanis Club salmon barbecue at Hillcrest Park. The annual event ended April 22. Proceeds go toward numerous charities in the county.

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CLT homeowners, upon selling their home, share their equity with Home Trust of Skagit, which in turn allows the home to be affordable for the next homebuyer.

Haberly told Larsen that he appreciated his support and taking the time to visit and to learn what local organizations were doing to help address housing affordability in Skagit County.

Larsen's visit comes a couple months after U.S. Rep. Suzan DelBene visited Home Trust's Summerlynd community land trust neighborhood in Mount Vernon in January.

Home Trust is working to get other representatives to see the work that it is doing in the county.

## Home Trust of Skagit Begins "Everybody's Neighbor - A Housing People Podcast"

Home Trust staff have begun airing "Everybody's Neighbor - A Housing People Podcast" this month after several months of putting the idea together. The first podcast dropped April 25.

Executive Director Jodi Monroe said she has learned that no other community land trusts in the country, probably even the world, has a podcast. As a regular listener of podcasts, Monroe said it is important to communicate with the public in different ways.

"A podcast is easy, practical and necessary," Monroe said. "And considering the mission that Home Trust has in helping Skagit County residents, we need to have different ways to reach these folks. They are in our neighborhood."

"Everyone's Neighbor" is available on Soundcloud and other platforms and will be added to Home Trust's other social media platforms, including Facebook and the Home Trust webpage.



Home Trust of Skagit is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping Skagit County residents earning less than 80

percent of the county area median income purchase their own home. We are located at 612 S. First Street, in Mount Vernon. Mailing address is P.O. Box 2444, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. Contact Executive Director Jodi Monroe or Community Outreach Coordinator Bill Craig at (360) 428-0014, or by e-mailing [info@hometrustedskagit.org](mailto:info@hometrustedskagit.org), to donate or for more information.