

## Building on Byrom

Captain Bobby Huchanton works on cutting out one of the front windows of the new Habitat for Humanity home on Byrom Street. Habitat plans to have four homes started on Byrom by June of this year.

Photos by BILL GAMBLIN  
Peninsula



## Milton Fire Department starts work on Habitat home

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The mark of any person is making the community better than the condition he or she found it in.

With this in mind, Pensacola Habitat for Humanity is in the process of not just building one home, but making a three-year effort that will see the possible start of four more homes by June of this year.

The Milton Fire Department started working Tuesday on the first home in the project, at 5819 Byrom St.

This home will be dedicated in the memory of Florence Cash, a Milton resident and Habitat volunteer who passed away in December of last year.

"Florence Cash pioneered Habitat's involvement in North Santa Rosa County," said Betty Salter, executive director of the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate. "Her background in public service gave her a valuable understanding and compassion for the people of Milton."

"She cared deeply for her community and worked hard to bring decent, affordable housing to families low-income families. Florence's volunteer work is one of the reasons that Habitat for Humanity was able to expand our service area to include North Santa Rosa County."

Cash, who served in World War II in the Navy Nurse Corps before becoming a Santa Rosa County public health nurse, began her work as a Habitat volunteer in 1993.

She and Mary Beth Williamson worked together and co-chaired the Family Selection Committee for North Santa Rosa County. They were responsible for interviewing families that apply for the Habitat for Humanity program.

On Tuesday, the first home was being framed thanks to the efforts of the Milton Fire Department.

"This is a great thing for the department," Fire Chief John Rebel said. "This is a way for all of our guys to get together to help the community and bond as a group as well."

"As a group, this is something we try to do as often as we can."

Four Habitat homes have already been completed on nearby Plymouth and Applegate streets. The property previously held dilapidated and abandoned trailers, which Habitat removed in order to build new homes.

Since 1981, Pensacola Habitat has built more than 650 homes and moved 2,400 people from substandard housing while serving Santa Rosa and Escambia Counties.

If you would like to donate funds or volunteer, you can visit the Habitat for Humanity Web site at [www.pensacolahabitat.com](http://www.pensacolahabitat.com) or call the office at 350-434-5456.



Fire Chief John Rebel (left) and Capt. Keith Vinson work on the front porch area of the Habitat home being built on Byrom Street. Vinson used to live at this very address some 23 years ago and now is helping to build the replacement home.



ABOVE: Fireman Steve Maddox makes sure wood is cut properly as the Byrom Street Habitat home is framed and enclosed Tuesday. ABOVE, LEFT: Scott Snowden and Lt. Randy Hendrix share a laugh while working on the outside of the home. The Milton Fire Department volunteered a day to get the house started. LEFT: Lt. Jim Custrad of the Milton Fire Department works on the back of the home.

