I am one of the lucky ones, adopted by a family able to provide security, opportunity, and an education. But by grade school, life was not so great after all. Children of an alcoholic parent know that joy and security are illusionary. Such a home is not a loving and peaceful environment.

But, I got lucky again. I found my refuge in the original Everett Boys Club. My neighborhood gang, the Tenth Street Tigers, gathered on the fields and in the gym for whatever sport was in season. Add in ping-pong, pool, and shuffle board and we were in boy-hood heaven. Three of my sons, Mike, Dave, and Dan have continued our Boys & Girls Club involvement as players and coaches for many years.

Corny as it sounds, I learned so many valuable life lessons there, including getting back up after getting knocked on my fanny. And how about ‘humble in victory, gracious in defeat’. At the Club there is no sense of entitlement, nor should there be. Your acceptance is based on treating others with respect and obeying the rules. Do those things and the Club is a great place to make lifelong friends and happy memories.

So, why would any of this matter to you? Because, nestled here in our relatively prosperous and unarguably beautiful community, is the oldest, smallest, least accessible club in this state. The building was used as an old barn dance site in 1955. I know, I was there! And as to the apparent prosperity of the Greater Mukilteo area, over 50% of our school children are on free or reduced lunch programs! It is my sincere belief that the age, condition, size, and location make the continued use of the existing facility untenable. If you disagree, I would invite you to join me on a short tour of the facility.

Thankfully there has been a feasibility study, and there is a plan to build a new facility. I am very excited about the possibilities. There has been an exceptional degree of co-operation between the city, school district, YMCA, and the Mukilteo Boys & Girls Club. Regardless of your political point of view, we should all appreciate the impact and support that the plan has received from Brian Sullivan, Marci Larson, Jennifer Gregorson, Joe Marine, Marco Liias, Judy Schwab and many City Council and School Board members.

I am convinced this project will prove of incalculable value to our community. Since the Club opened in 1961, it has had, by all accounts, and incredibly significant positive influence on Mukilteo kids. This is a community that has proven it cherishes and supports it children. The new Club will become an enduring Legacy from ‘us’ to ‘them’. A heartfelt gift to those beautiful children and grandchildren of whom we are so proud, and whom we so profoundly love.

Bill Rucker