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Newsletter of the Interior Regional Housing Authority

Safe Housing for Tribes through the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act

Vol. VII, Issue 1 Serving the Native People of the Doyon Region, Alaska

June 2010

Energy saving program opens new avenues for Standish and clients

Richard Standish is IRHA's weatherization assessor. He started working in November 2009, and has been going non-stop ever since. He got up to speed by taking the required weatherization training, including obtaining an assessor certification.

Richard's certifications permit him to work as an energy assessor, blower-door tech, and lead paint renovator. His attention to detail and commitment to our clients make him an invaluable addition to the weatherization program.

In villages across the region, Richard has been working with foremen and local crews to ensure that our weatherization clients are receiving the best services possible.

Richard worked for IRHA in previous years and is happy to be back with our organization. He brings to his new position over 30 years of construction experience, the majority here in Alaska.

He says, "I enjoy going to the villages and doing assessments then trying to figure out the best type of retrofit for the budget we are given to cut the utility costs and to keep the home owner warm and comfortable."

Originally from Eagle, he is a Doyon shareholder. It was in Eagle that he began his construction career.

"I started in construction when I was 12 or 13 and still living in the village, working on all the houses that were being built.

"I've been in commercial and residential construction, starting as a laborer, then to carpenter, foremen, superintendant, project manager and Corp of Engineers quality control manager for commercial contracts on Ft Richardson," he said.

Richard and his wife, Jamie, have been married for the past 20 years. Over that time, they've lived in Anchorage, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. They have three children, Hailey, 14, Elizabeth, 3, and Nicholas, who



Richard Standish, weatherization assessor, and Paul Hayden, a construction foreman, travel from the Grayling airport to the project site. The dog sled is being pulled by a snowmachine, an easy way to increase the machine's utility.

is 15-months old.

Before coming back to the Interior, Richard was located in Anchorage where he was the camp ranger at the Chugach Boy Scout camp. The family lives in North Pole, and in his spare time Richard enjoys working on his truck, a 2001 Silverado. He's a hunter and fisherman, looking to forward to returning to Chitina for dipnetting.

To learn more about the Weatherization program and how it can benefit you and your family, visit www.irha.org. Program details are found there, or if you like call Kimberly Carlo at 452-8315 x160 or toll-free 1-800-478-4742

IRHA Board of Commissioners

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Patrick McCarty, Sec./Treas.
Ruby, Tel: 907-468-4407

Fred Alexie, Sr.
Kaltag, Tel: 907-534-2277

Robert Walker
Anvik, Tel: 907-663-6341

Letters from clients offering thanks and appreciation

Fire damage repair

Dear IRHA staff, Feb. 5, 2010

This letter is to thank your workers who came to our house to fix it after a grease fire damaged some cupboards and some of our flooring. I called Tiffany and she immediately sent Billy VanBorg out to our home in the Smith-Ranch subdivision to investigate and take pictures. We are under the "HOPE" Elders program.

The workers who came were Billy VanBorg, Gabe Dayton and his helper, Paul Hayden, Carl Demit, and Chunky Evans, who were always prompt, polite and did an excellent job. We appreciate a job WELL done. The home was constructed in 2007 and the different crews (electricians, plumbers, laborers, sheetrock on the ceiling) who worked on the house did an awesome job and I'm sorry I did not send a letter then. My apologies if I missed anyone's name.

Sincerely,

Eli and Bernice Aragon

Donations help Ruby

Dear Staff at IRHA, May 25, 2010

The Ruby Tribal Council IGAP department is in charge of all the environmental activities. We had our annual spring clean up picnic on May 21. The Ruby Tribal Council IGAP department want to thank you all of our donations that we received.

Without your help this wouldn't have been possible for our annual spring clean up.

We are sending our thanks to your business for your support in our annual spring clean up. Without your donations this would have been possible.

Sincerely,

Joseph Wright, IGAP Coordinator
Shavonn Greenway, IGAP Technician

BOC travels to McGrath

IRHA's Board of Commissioners and staff traveled to McGrath on May 17 for its scheduled meeting. The meeting was held at the Takusko Lodge in McGrath.

The next day some of the staff flew to Nikolai to meet with the tribal council to discuss planning details and upcoming projects that will benefit the community.

"A house is made with walls and beams.
A home is made with love and dreams."
— Author Unknown

Energy & Weatherization program gathering momentum across region

The new weatherization year started on April 1, 2010. We have approval to proceed weatherizing 43 homes. This schedule includes five homes in Rampart and 43 homes in Grayling.

Currently, we are in the planning stages of providing weatherization services to the residents of Northway, on the eastern edge of our region. We'll have more information about Northway in the next newsletter.

In Rampart, weatherization work will get underway in mid-June; we'll move to Grayling in late July.

Last year we weatherized a total of 39 homes in Huslia, nine in Hughes and seven homes in Shageluk. IRHA also weatherized two of our apartment buildings in Tok. That brings to us to a total of six units weatherized in Tok.

Under the 2009 grant year, IRHA has weatherized 61 homes or apartments buildings.

Prior to hiring crew members in Grayling, we collaborated with Alaska Works Partnership. This organization provided a training course in Grayling for weatherization entry level workers (technician 1). This was a great advantage for community members who will be working for the local weatherization program.

The training session was held April 12 - 16 and led by instructor John Woodward. The Grayling Tribal Council staff has been very helpful during the training. IRHA also appreciates the tribal council's efforts to assure that its members submit the required documentation to receive services.

Energy Grants Received

IRHA is currently working with 11 communities on their Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) from the Department of Energy. We'll be working on various energy projects that tribal councils have selected for each community. This work will be taking place over the summer and into the winter.

In other news, IRHA received funding from the United States Department of Agriculture for an energy reduction grant. This project aims to provide lighting retrofits to all residential homes and commercial buildings in the villages of Ruby, Hughes, Arctic Village, Stevens Village, and Koyukuk. This is a wonderful opportunity that will produce significant reduction in demand.

For individuals and tribal councils who wish to stay up to date about funding opportunities, the DOE website (www.doe.gov) and www.grants.gov offer the latest news and applications. Visit these site to see if the announcements apply to your community and tribe.

The energy staff at IRHA is available to help communities determine how to best use federal dollars to cut energy use. Call us today.



A weatherization employee prepares to add new insulation to the drum that feeds it into the adjacent dwelling in Tok. The project is aimed at cutting energy costs in the region's small communities.

IRHA

The Interior Regional Housing Authority is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity of the tribes of the Doyon region. It works in partnership with the tribes that have, by certification and resolution, agreed to be part of the Indian Housing Plan. It is legally constituted under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 to promote safe housing and self-sufficiency.

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|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Irene Catalone | Chief Executive Officer |
| Eli James | Chief Financial Officer |
| Eileen Kozevnikoff | Admin. Assistant |
| Paul Snow | Construction Coordinator |
| Jorge Simmons | Construction Manager |
| Tiffany Sweetsir | Community Planning Man. |

FAQs provide basic information and guidance to services we provide clients

In an effort to provide everyone with more information about our operations, we present a series of frequently asked questions, also called FAQs.

Here's how we begin.

IRHA's FAQ

What kind of housing programs does IRHA offer?

Tribal Equity Advantage Mortgage Program (TEAM): Home Purchase Down Payment Assistance.

Homeownership Program (HOP): Home purchase program through IRHA.

Rental Assistance (RA): Tailored towards those who are 62 years and older to assist with monthly rent.

Rehab: Rehabilitation (health and safety) of current homeowner houses.

What is the difference between HOP and TEAM?

TEAM: Participant gets a bank home purchase loan and finds a home to purchase with a loan amount not to exceed \$190,000 and IRHA grants up to 30 percent of the purchase price. The grant is forgiven 10 percent per year over a 10-year period.

HOP: IRHA acts as the bank note holder. Participant does not get to pick the home, it is assigned by IRHA. The monthly payment is over a 20-year period and is based on 30 percent of monthly income (monthly payment fluctuates with income).

Who responds to complaints regarding housing issues?

Complaints regarding housing are answered by either the Planning Coordinator or Housing/Loan Officer depending on complaint. All complaints are discussed with appropriate staff (construction, accounting, planning) and then reviewed by the Planning & Business Development manager and CEO before the review is mailed to the people bringing the complaint.

How can I get on the "ANTHC Scattered Sites" project?

ANTHC (Alaska Native Health Trust Consortium) applications are at the ANTHC web site at www.anthc.org. We also have applications available at IRHA's office; see Kris Richardson or Paul Snow to pick one up. After completion, mail them directly to ANTHC at the listed addresses or, if preferred, we will mail applications. It's a good idea to make a copy of the completed application, save it for recordkeeping, with the date the application was mailed.

Board and staff lend weight at National American Indian Housing Council annual meeting

In late May, Board of Commissioners Robert Walker and Fred Alexie, Sr., along with Eli James and Eileen Kozevnikoff participated in the National American Indian Housing Council's annual meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. NAIHC is the only national Indian organization advocating solely on behalf of tribal housing programs.

Cheryl Causley was elected NAIHC Chairwoman at the convention. Ms. Causley takes the helm after years of service at the Bay Mills Indian Community Housing Authority. The

Minnesota League of Women Voters conducted the election process and tallied the votes.

The attendees passed three resolutions: 1) Requesting Indian preference in employment at Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs; 2) Praising outgoing Chairman Marty Shuravloff's dedicated leadership; and 3) Urges Congress to support increased funding for Indian housing programs and training and technical assistance (T&TA), including: funding for the Indian Housing Block Grant in the amount of \$875 million; funding

Energy Dept. offers appliance rebates for Alaskans with disabilities, helps cut costs

Alaskans with disabilities are encouraged to qualify for a home appliance rebate program funded by a \$658,000 grant from the U.S. Dept. of Energy and administered by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

The effort aims to assure everyone has opportunity to upgrade to energy-efficient models. The program began in March 2010 and will run until February 2012, or until the money is gone.

If you have a disability and are thinking of purchasing a new appliance, now is the time to take advantage of this program.

Eligibility is limited to Alaskans who have a condition that meets the legal definition for a disability or who receive or are eligible to receive benefits for that disability. Written documentation from a physician, health care provider, or local, state or federal agency that confirms the disability, or demonstrates receipt of benefits or services directly related to the disability can be used for verification. See AHFC's website for more details: ahfs.us.

Only ENERGY STAR-rated appliances are eligible for rebates, and participants are limited to one of each type (refrigerator, freezer, washer and dishwasher). Rebate amounts vary according to the type of appliance and the location of the participant's residence.

ENERGY STAR refrigerators and freezers:

- ◆ \$500 for rural Alaskans with disabilities
- ◆ \$300 for urban Alaskans with disabilities

ENERGY STAR washers and dishwashers:

- ◆ \$300 for rural Alaskans with disabilities
- ◆ \$150 for urban Alaskans with disabilities

Rural communities are those not served by road or by the Alaska Marine Highway. Rebates for rural areas are higher because of the higher costs associated with shipping freight to rural destinations.

The application process starts with calling AHFC's Rebate Call Center: 1-877-257-3228. Once approved, the participant receives a voucher to authorize the rebate. If you qualify, call now. 1-877-257-3228.

for the Indian Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$100 million; and funding for the NAIHC T&TA program in the amount of \$4.8 million.

NAIHC encourages your active participation in the appropriations process. A sample letter for corresponding with your legislative representatives is available on the NAIHC website. Please contact your senators and house members to express your concern regarding FY2011 IHBG appropriations and to urge support for NAIHC's essential T/TA programs.

Proposed federal cuts target IHBG, NAIHC's training and technical assistance

Federal legislation is being developed that bears on the future of housing for Native Americans. IRHA, along with the National American Indian Housing Council, are astonished by the proposed cuts to the Indian housing budget.

As the single largest source of Indian housing funds, Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) appropriations (money bills) under NAHASDA continue to be at the top of NAIHC's legislative priority list.

The President's Proposed FY2011 Budget Request includes devastating funding reductions — a decrease of \$120 million (17 percent) — for the IHBG program, and it would eliminate training and technical assistance (T/TA) provided by NAIHC.

On April 26, the Senate announced a budget resolution that would essentially preserve the level of FY2010 funding for the IHBG program, \$700 million, for FY2011.

In addition, NAIHC is working to pass the following bills. Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act ("HEARTH," H.R. 2523, S. 3235) The HEARTH Act would amend the Indian Long-Term Leasing Act of 1955 (25 U.S.C. _ 415) by reforming leasing requirements and encouraging housing and community development in Native American communities. It would allow tribes to enter into certain leases without prior approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

Indian Veterans Housing Opportunity Act (H.R. 3553, S. 3246) This bill, originally introduced by Rep. Kirkpatrick (D-AZ) last September, would amend NAHASDA to be consistent with the IRS Tax Code and other federal statutes and regulations by excluding income received by a veteran, or his or her family, for service-related disability, dependency, or indemnity, from the definition of "income" under NAHASDA. NAIHC Executive Director Mellor Willie testified at a Field Hearing in Window Rock, AZ on April 10, in support of this legislation, which has six co-sponsors. On April 20, the bill passed with overwhelming support on the House floor. On April 22, a Senate companion bill was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

To learn how to assist or learn more, visit <http://www.naihc.net/>. This is an active site, updated frequently. Check it out!

IRHA Weatherization projects looks to cut costs, bring new measure of energy awareness to villages



L-R: Richard Standish, Wes Henry, a local IRHA crew member, and Danny Brown, an inspector who works for AHFC, survey homes in Huslia. Alaska Housing Finance Corp. is a major funder of energy related upgrades in rural Alaska. AFHC provides field monitors who review the quality of the work.

Negotiations over NAHASDA rulemaking continue, IRHA is at the table

The process of negotiated rulemaking under NAHASDA continues. The Committee, composed of two HUD representatives and 25 tribal representatives, has held four of five scheduled meetings.

Irene Catalone and Eileen Kozevnikoff are representing IRHA at these sessions.

Of 98 specifically enumerated issues, the committee has reached consensus on 56.

The next meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington, July 20-22, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. If a sixth meeting is required, the location is not yet specified.

Meetings begin at 8:00am and adjourn at 5:00pm daily. Please note that all meetings are open to the public; you do not have to be on the Committee to participate in the Neg Reg process.

For further information, review the information available at: <http://www.naihc.net/>.

Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) next generation of power-saving lighting

As prices continue to fall, LEDs are expected to begin replacing compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL). The LEDs use less energy, run cooler and have a longer life.

LEDs are generally pretty tough. They are shock and cold resistant. In fact the colder it gets, the better they perform.

When it comes to outdoor lighting at extreme temperatures, some fluorescents can suffer from performance losses when compared to their use inside.

Currently, LEDs are popular in lowlight applications such as pathway lighting or for task lighting such as workbenches, nightlights, flashlights and other devices where incandescent bulbs have traditionally been used.

Because small incandescent bulbs are the least efficient, they are perfect to be replaced by an LED.

Changes in the lighting industry are coming quickly. Prices are coming down on LEDs and fluorescents, and they are being better designed to work in different environments. If you are looking at buying an LED light for outdoor use, get one with a good warranty. The bulbs may last a long time, but there are other components in the light that may not fare as well.

To learn more about LEDs, visit: <http://www.realgoods.com/category/home-outdoor/lighting.do>