

Attend to family safety issues:  
Stay alert for frayed electrical cords  
Make your kitchen routines safe



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## Newsletter of the Interior Regional Housing Authority

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

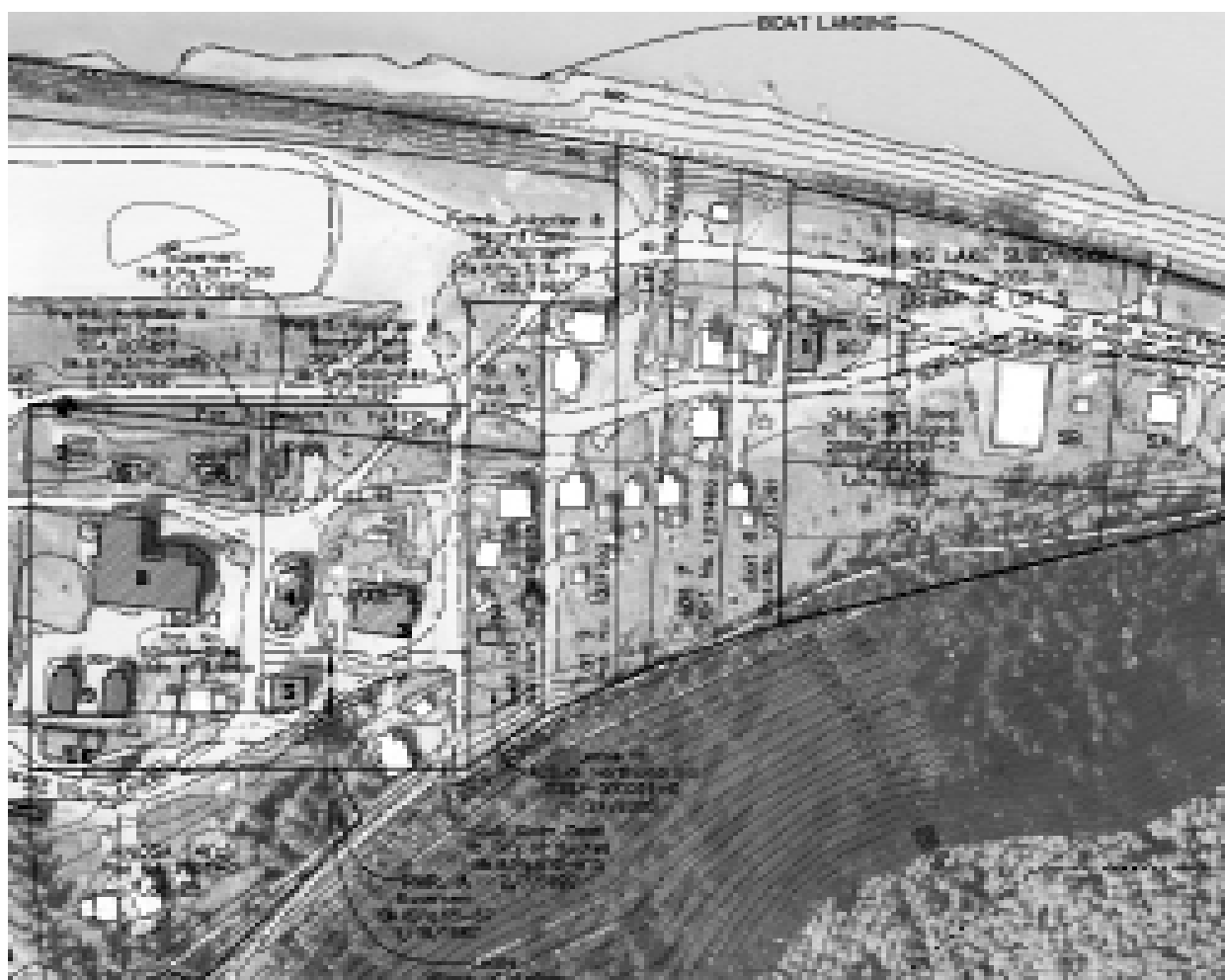
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Serving the Native People of the Doyon Region, Alaska

**December 2010**

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### Village mapping project complete; detailed inventory tool aids planning



Inventory that identified homes, churches, public and commercial buildings. Draft maps were open to revision and correction by local residents before the project moved ahead.

Villages with digital maps are: Alatna, Allakaket, Anvik, Bettles/Evanville, Galena, Hughes, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Manley Hot Springs, McGrath, Minto, Nenana, Nikolai, Nulato, Ruby, Takotna and Tanana.

For more information about this project, contact Eileen Kozevnikoff.

*Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy Holidays  
from our staff  
to your family*

### IRHA Board of Commissioners

**Teisha Simmons, Chair**  
Fairbanks, Tel: 907-479-5144

**N. Carl Burgett, Vice-chair**  
Huslia, Tel: 907-829-2456

**Patrick McCarty, Sec/Treasurer**  
Ruby, Tel: 907-468-4407

**Fred Alexie, Sr.**  
Kaltag, Tel: 907-534-2271

**Robert Walker**  
Anvik, Tel: 907-663-6341

*A major section of Hughes is illustrated in part of the community's new map. Based on aerial photography and land surveys, and local knowledge, the document identifies significant features, houses, public buildings, the river and a section of the airport. Multiple layers of information, including property lines, provide accurate and convenient access for planning additional infrastructure or land use decisions.*

Last year, IRHA and the state's Division of Community and Regional Affairs worked together, along with the region's villages, to produce maps of each community. Our partnership with the division was completed earlier this year and the results are now being put to work.

The maps are state-of-the-art digital documents produced with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) computer programs. Each map consists of a series of transparent layers placed on top of an aerial photograph that acts as the map's base. The layers show contour lines, property lines, utility corridors and easements, roads and trails, airports and docks.

Our planning department has begun using the maps when meeting with tribal councils. The visual tools help everyone anticipate how future changes will affect them. The maps provide tribal leaders with an assist in collaborating with residents for the best interests of the community.

Additionally, the maps will support grant requests and state requirements.

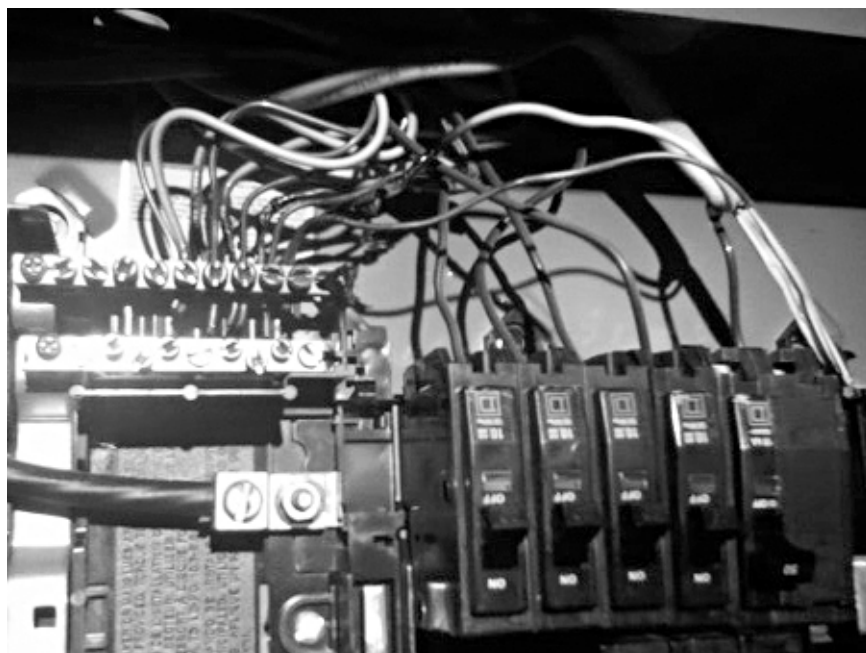
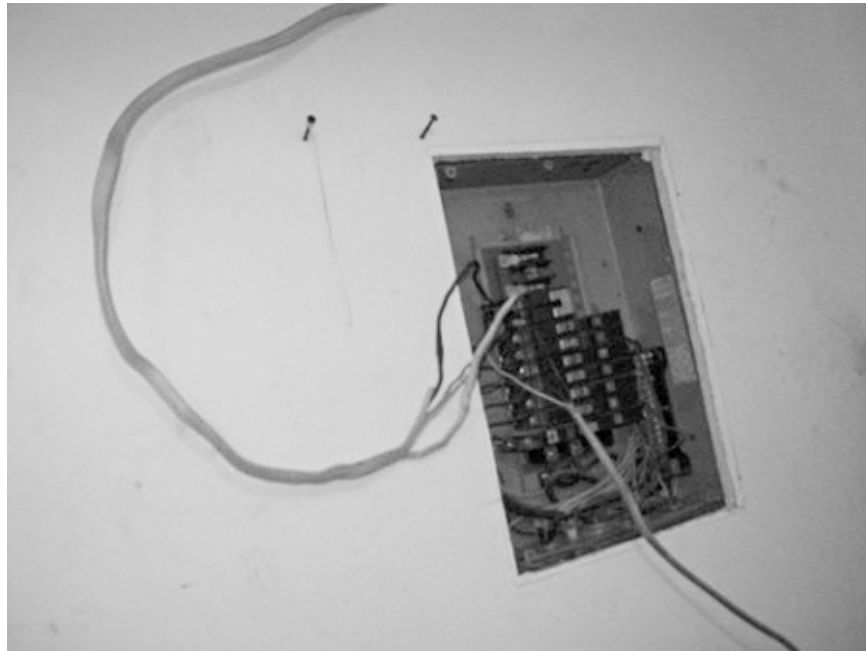
Global Positioning Services, the technical team hired by the state to conduct the work, visited each village to discuss the project and gather local intelligence.

Village residents produced a structure in-

# Fire-prone house wiring replaced by IRHA crews; USDA grant funds repair and replacement



Some older homes in the region were constructed without using safe and modern electrical practices. This creates fire risk for homeowners and their families. Safety demands consistent application of high level electrical practices, also known as following the code. These photos illustrate four examples of circuit boxes that did not follow code. A US Dept of Agriculture grant is funding repair and replacement of code violations. Steve Minnema is coordinating this project. [SMinnema@irha.org](mailto:SMinnema@irha.org)



## 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.

### Interior Regional Housing Authority

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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.

## Reducing demand & gaining efficiency from energy

**SOURCES: wood, fuel oil, propane, electricity, water, solar**

*By Kimberly Carlo, Weatherization Administrator*

You may have heard it said, “It takes money to save money.” While that may not always be true it helps describe IRHA’s efforts to save energy. The housing authority is using several proven strategies to reduce living expenses in rural villages. However, energy efficiency is easier to say than to accomplish. It takes funding, expertise and time to do the job right.

One of the funding sources we’re tapping is the Energy-Efficiency Conservation Block Grant, a program of the U.S. Dept. of Energy. Eleven tribal councils asked us to apply for funding on their behalf. Among the projects we’ve carried out or assisted with:

Alatna - solar panels installed on washeteria.

Circle Tribe - limited weatherization

Hughes - retrofitting washeteria for woodfire boiler; LED street lights.

Kaltag - Energy Assessments: 64 homes; written reports offers tactics to save energy.

Koyukuk - LED street lights.

Nikolai - generators relocated for greater safety and efficiency.

Rampart - washeteria weatherized.

Shageluk - washeteria: solar thermal units

Stevens Village - solar panels tribal office

Venetie - a new community generator.

Minto - retrofitted home lighting and tuned up boiler for greater efficiency.

IRHA also received a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to retrofit electrical hookups and lighting in five communities. Each of the five (Koyukuk, Hughes, Ruby, Stevens Village, Arctic Village) will get lighting upgrades for each home as well as all public buildings. Work is completed in the four villages; the electricians will go back to Arctic Village

to finish their work in January 2011. The final part of the project involves installing solar panels on one of the community’s power plants to help offset the the community’s energy load.

As this years ends, IRHA is wrapping up its second year of weatherization. So far we have provided weatherization services to Huslia, Hughes, Shageluk, Rampart, and Grayling. We are currently working on five homes in Grayling and 30 in Northway. We anticipate this work will be completed by February.

In Tok, we worked on IRHA’s apartment complex; in Nenana, we provided energy services to Meda Lord Center, and four homes in Fairbanks. Next on the list for the coming year of Weatherization: Steven Village and Kaltag.

Stevens Village and Kaltag may submit weatherization applications to IRHA during the month of January. The actual project will start during the summer of 2011.

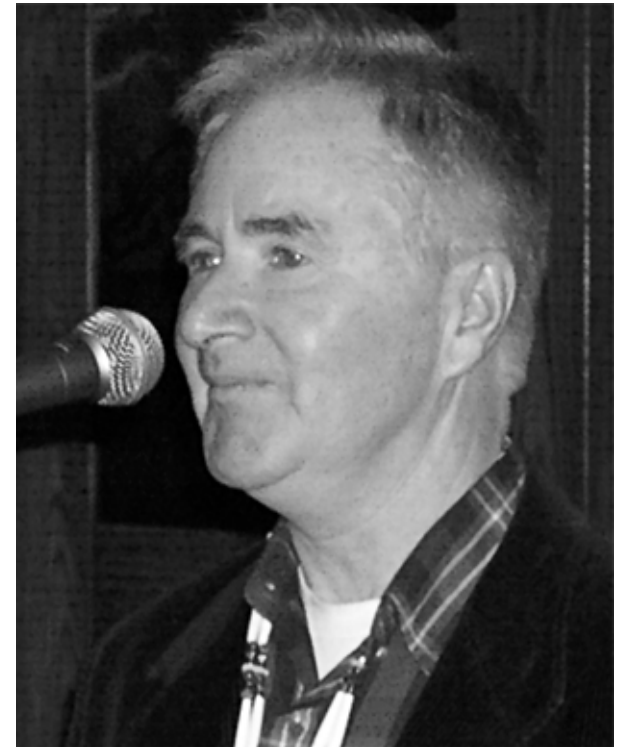
Thanks to a grant from the Denali Commission and administered by Tanana Chiefs Conference, IRHA will conduct an Energy Inventory in your village. TCC and IRHA are collaborating in a process of conducting assessments in each village and compiling the data. Assessments will target power plants, associated energy infrastructure, community power consumption, and produce a review of local conservation measures. The resulting reports will return to the community to help support grant opportunities. Each village assessment will fit into the Interior Regional Energy Plan.

Questions or suggestions about IRHA’s energy projects may be directed to: Kimberly Carlo at 1-800-478-4742 or email KCarlo@IRHA.org.



*Kimberly Carlo*

## Carl Hoffman: Send him your prayers



Long time employee, community member, Carl Hoffman slipped on the ice at work on November 29 and suffered a skull fracture. A friend to many, a union carpenter, a noted musician, and a valued colleague to many of us, Carl has been our lead estimator for years. An exacting task, Carl is tireless in helping IRHA keep to its budget.

Carl was flown to Anchorage for surgery, where he is now recovering. IRHA helped organize a fund raiser that was held at the First United Methodist Church in mid-December. The hall was filled with friends of Carl.

A “Carl Hoffman Donantion Fund” is open at Mt.McKinley Bank: #11235921. This is intended to assist his family with travel and lodging in Anchorage. Call: 452-1751, or 1-888-515-1774.

IRHA is also helping with a raffle that features a 42-inch HDTV. Tickets are \$10; contact Teisha, 479-5144, or IRHA, 452-8315.

**Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family.**

**Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.**

**~Jane Howard**

## National magazine publishes report on IRHA Weatherization

One of the leading domestic energy magazines published in the United States is looking to Alaska and IRHA for the latest in home energy conservation initiatives. Appropriately titled “Home Energy” or HE, the 50-some page journal is published in Berkeley, California. It has a wide readership in the rapidly growing energy efficiency and conservation field. With a history going back 26 years, the magazine covers breaking trends, products, services, training and education in home performance.

At a conference where Kimberly Carlo spoke about our energy programs, a representative of the magazine asked for more information. Kimberly put together a package of photos and a story about how we carry out weatherization projects. The photos show teams of people working on a small log home of many winters. They are caught in action: sealing air leaks, caulking windows, replacing others, and fitting rigid insulation in floors. It will be published in the January 2011 issue as well as the magazine’s web site: [homeenergy.org/](http://homeenergy.org/).

# Fire Safety Poster winners teach caution & care



**Tawni Taylor, Grade 8, Nenana City School**



**Sharon Ellana, Grade 10, Nenana City School**



**Kieran Groover, Kindergarten, McGrath School**

The annual fire safety campaign aimed at children is a significant feature in teaching children good habits and attitudes. Encourage your children to get involved. An art& craft box went to the kindergarten winner. Older children won DVD players.



**Mysheala Papist, Grade 4, Nenana City School**

## Tentative Construction Projects 2011

Anvik	PLANNING PHASE-Village level
Beaver	PLANNING PHASE-Village level
Birch Creek	Village REHAB
Dot lake	Village REHAB
Eagle	Village REHAB-1 vacant home
Evansville	NEW CONSTRUCTION PLANNED
Healy Lake	VILLAGE REHAB-2 vacant homes
Hughes	ONGOING PROJECTS
Huslia	PLANNING PHASE-Village level
Koyukuk	ONGOING PROJECTS
Manley	NEW CONSTRUCTION PLANNED
Nenana	NEW CONSTRUCTION
Nikolai	VILLAGE REHAB
Ruby	PLANNING PHASE-Village level
Stevens Village	VILLAGE REHAB
Telida	POSSIBLE NEW CONSTRUCTION
Tetlin	NEW CONSTRUCTION

To learn about the status of villages not listed, or if you have other questions, contact Jana George, or Annie Silas, ph: 1-800-478-4742, JGeorge@irha.org.

## Alaska Community Foundation selects IRHA grant request

IRHA has learned it is the recipient of a grant from the Alaska Community Foundation in the amount of \$50,000. The funding is targeted for the purchase of new computers, and a new hard drive. The funds will also be used to develop an instructional video on heat recovery and ventilation (HRV) for homeowners and written educational material on what the 20 per-cent cost supports. Additionally, funding will allow staff training through this grant

The Alaska Community Foundation grant is the result of active efforts to support IRHA's ongoing programs. We welcome this contribution to our work on behalf of Doyon Region tribes.