

north pacific rim housing authority

NPRHA NEWS

MARCH — APRIL, 2010

Board of Commissioners:

Patrick Norman, Chairman,
Port Graham Village

John Boone, Vice-Chair,
Valdez Native Tribe

Daisy Blatchford, Secretary/
Treasurer,
Qutekcak Native Tribe

David Totemoff,
Tatitlek IRA

Jerry Demas,
Nanwalek IRA

Larry Evanoff,
Chenege IRA

Robert Henrichs,
Native Village of Eyak

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News from the Director

With Congress still working on the 2011 appropriations process, planning for our new development projects for this summer has been challenging since we do not yet know the total amount of funding that we will receive. Normally, the process should have been completed prior to September of 2010, but with the change in the makeup of Congress and concern over the federal budget deficit, they still have not completed it. And, half of the fiscal year is already over! This may cause some delays in new projects that NPRHA would like to undertake in our communities, but we do have a significant number of projects that are fully funded and will begin this spring and summer as planned.

The major new construction project that we are planning this summer is construction of the new Behavioral Health and Wellness Center in Port Graham. This project was funded last year with a combination of an Indian Community Development Block Grant, NAHASDA funding, and local match-

ing funds. The project included the purchase of a residential home and construction of a new 1500 square foot office building in Duncan Heights that will be used for the Llangarwik treatment program and other behavioral health programs in Port Graham. The foundation and utilities for the new building have been installed and construction of the facility will begin as soon as weather allows.

Three other projects that we are hoping to complete this summer, if the funding becomes available, are construction of a new youth Activity Center in Nanwalek, renovation of the Tribal office and community center in Chenege Bay, and a new development project in Seward that we are working on with Qutekcak Native Tribe. The funding for the Nanwalek and Chenege projects should be announced in the next few months and the funding for the Seward project is dependent on the 2011 appropriations process being completed. The Nanwalek project is already fully designed and permitted, which would allow us to start the actual construc-



tion quickly when funding is received. The Chenege and Seward projects will most likely focus on design and engineering this year with construction in the summer of 2012.

NPRHA will also be keeping our crews busy with two major projects under our modernization program this summer. We will be installing new boilers and boiler rooms at our original Mutual Help homes in Chenege Bay and new roofing on our apartments in Cordova. Materials are already on site for the Chenege project and will be ordered this spring for Cordova. Both projects are scheduled to start as soon as the weather allows. The other projects that will be completed this summer under our modernization program are new windows on our original Mutual Help homes in Tatitlek and Nanwalek,

(continued on page 4)

AMERIND Safety Poster Contest



Looking for the
face of an
artist!

AMERIND Safety Poster Contest

- * Open to children in grades K-8
- * Submit drawings by May 15th
- * **DO NOT FOLD** drawings
- * No names on the front of the poster

Calling all Artists!
It is time for the annual AMERIND Risk Management Corporation's National Safety Poster Contest. We encourage all children of our homebuyers and tenants, in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade, to participate.

AMERIND encourages fire safety posters, but children can promote other safety themes as well. Some past winners have drawn posters reflecting hunting, fishing, boating, driving, swimming, camping, and bicycling safety, as well as fire safety.

Children in the Chugach region have been very creative in their past artwork. NPRHA employees judge our regional posters by category—K-3 grades, 4-6 grades, and 7-8

grades—and judging is never easy! A winner is selected from each age group and those three artists receive a prize from NPRHA.

The three winning posters are then sent to the Alaska Association of Housing Authorities (AAHA) where our region's winning entries are judged with entries from other regions in the State. Winning posters are selected, again, one from each age category.

The Statewide posters are forwarded on to the national contest, to be judged by AMERIND. The three first place winners in the National Safety Poster contest will each receive a \$3,000 U.S. Savings Bond from AMERIND. It could be one of our kids, so encourage everyone to enter.

Poster entries must be received at the Anchorage NPRHA office by May 15th in order to be judged. Give your entries to your local manager or coordinator at the field office so they will get to Anchorage in time. If there is no manager at your site, you may send them directly to Brenda Christoffersen, 8300 King Street, Anchorage, AK 99518. **Important Note: when sending in poster entries, DO NOT FOLD THEM!**

Please contact NPRHA staff at your local field office for more information. Or, you may call Brenda in Anchorage at 1.888.274.1444. We hope to have entries from all seven of our communities.

Remember, the deadline is May 15th. Good Luck, Everyone!



ARE YOU EARTHQUAKE READY?

Plan ahead. Earthquakes strike suddenly, violently and without warning. Identifying potential hazards ahead of time and advance planning can reduce the dangers of serious injury or loss of life from an earthquake.

1. Check for hazards in the home.
 - Hang heavy items (pictures, etc.) away from beds and couches and place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
 - Brace overhead lights and secure water heater to the wall with a strap and bolt it to the floor.
 - Repair any deep cracks in ceilings or foundations.
 - Store poisonous and flammable

products in closed cabinets with latches and on the bottom shelf.

2. Identify safe places indoors and outside.
 - Under sturdy furniture.
 - Against an inside wall.
 - Away from where glass could shatter or where heavy objects could fall over.
 - In the open, away from buildings, trees, phone poles.
3. Educate yourself and family.
 - Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police or fire dept.
 - Teach all family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water.
4. Have disaster supplies on hand.
 - Flashlight and extra batteries.

- Portable battery operated radio and extra batteries.
 - First aid kit and manual, and essential medicines.
 - Emergency food and water.
 - Cash and credit cards.
 - Sturdy shoes for everyone.
5. Develop an emergency communication plan.
 - In case family members are separated, develop a plan for reuniting after the disaster.
 - Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." After a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.



Housing Management News

WEATHERIZATION

A letter requesting a copy of 2010 IRS returns and a fuel authorization form has been sent to all applicants who applied for weatherization. Some of you have been sending the same information for the past few years, but it is very important that you continue to send these in every year. Our goal is to weatherize every qualifying home, but it will take time and it will involve updating your application every year. I would like to thank all of you for your utmost patience.

Your time is precious and I appreciate your faxing or mailing me the needed information. Bring your tax return and form to your local NPRHA office and staff there will fax it to me. If you fax from another machine, my fax number is 907.267.6875 and my email address is brenda@nprha.com. Some of you have submitted a Request for IRS Transmittal, but it is early in the year, so it would be best if you send me

your own copy.

For those applicants who have not yet sent in other missing information, such as proof of ownership, year the house was built, ages of everyone in the household, etc., please get in touch with me. We cannot qualify your home for weatherization without all of the information requested. If you need help with anything, I can be reached at 1.888.274.1444.

It would be a dream come true to weatherize all the homes in a year, but we are budgeted a certain amount of money each year. Therefore, only a handful of homes get done annually. Unless we receive all of the documents and information requested with the application, we cannot move forward.

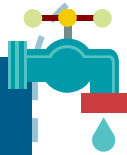
PERMANENT FUND DIVIDENDS

The 2011 PFD Assignment of Rights (AOR) forms are available at all of

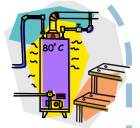
our offices. If you are behind on your payments, I suggest you assign your PFD(s) to NPRHA to prevent notices and termination. Some homebuyers and tenants prefer to assign their PFD to keep a credit balance in case of unforeseen tough times, such as loss of employment, unexpected expenses, etc. Or, simply to reach the end of their MHOA early and having the home conveyed.

If your account is delinquent, the assignment of one or more PFDs does not relieve you of the need to make monthly payments, unless it brings your balance into a credit status. However, whenever that credit balance ends, you must again begin making monthly payments or risk getting late fees, which will quickly build up your debt again.

If you are having a hard time making your monthly payments, please call me (Brenda) so we can set up a payment plan. We are here to help you.



Maintenance Department News

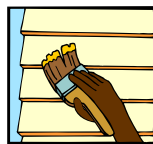


"Improper caulking [around windows and doors] allows moisture to penetrate into your walls and can cause mold."



Last issue, we looked at ways to improve your inside living while waiting out the arrival of Spring. Now that the weather is warming up, it is a good time to get outside and shake off your spring fever. With the snow receding, take the opportunity to do some outdoor home inspecting.

1. SIDING.



Inspect your home's siding and roof for damage from snow or ice.

2. CHIMNEY AND BOILER STACKS.

Inspect your stacks and roof vents for breaks or missing chimney caps.

3. HOSE BIBS AND FAUCETS.

Outside hose bibs or faucets can be checked by turning on the faucet and putting your thumb over the outlet. If you can stop the flow, you most likely have a break in the line. The pressure should have a



strong flow pushing against your thumb in resistance.

4. BRANCHES AND SHRUBS.

These should be cut back from your home. They provide pathways for bugs and allow excess moisture to



penetrate your home. You also want to create defensible space around your home in case of fire, and cutting these back is a step in that direction.

5. WINDOWS AND DOORS.

Check caulking on windows and doors. Improper caulking allows moisture to penetrate into your walls and can cause mold. In addition, you want a good seal to prevent cold (and hot!) air from entering and leaving your home in the various seasons. Everyone wants to save on their energy bill!



From the Director (continued from page 1)

continuation of our youth worker program, and rot repair and weather sealing at our Cordova rentals.

NPRHA's Weatherization program is in full swing with work being completed on units in Port Graham and Nanwalek this month. Next year we are planning on weatherizing another 20 homes around the region under this State of Alaska funded program. The legislature has proposed to add another \$25 million to the program in the current budget and the program appears to have very strong support in the legislature and hopefully will continue for many more years.

RIDDLES OF THE SEASON

1. What would you get if you crossed Christmas with St. Patrick's Day?
2. How does Mother Earth go fishing?
3. What kind of garden does a baker have?



Stacie and Ralph in Cordova getting ready to do some stack repairs.

Earth Day Every Day



P I Z T S E R O F N I A R E T T I L
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 L M A P E E I F A C N M S H B O C S
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| AIR | ENVIRONMENT | OXYGEN | RESOURCE |
| ANIMALS | EXTINCT | OZONE | REUSE |
| ATMOSPHERE | FOSSIL FUELS | PEOPLE | SANCTUARIES |
| CARE | GLOBAL WARMING | PHOTOSYNTHESIS | SOIL |
| CLEAN | HABITAT | PLANTS | SYMBIOSIS |
| CONSERVATION | HOME | POLLUTION | VOLUNTEER |
| EARTH | INTERVENTION | POPULATION | WATER |
| ECOSYSTEM | LANDFILLS | PRESERVE | WETLANDS |
| ENDANGERED | LITTER | RAINFOREST | WILDLIFE |
| ENERGY | OCEANS | RECYCLE | WORLD |

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Remembering

As we near the anniversary of the Great Alaska Quake of '64, the recent tragedies in Japan and New Zealand return the thoughts of many in Prince William Sound to the very same experience. Among the world's population, there are few people who can really say, "I understand what you are going through." But that is not true for many of you. You have lived through the horrors that others are now going through. You have survived losses that are immeasurable. You know how hard it is to move forward.

As a people who have a direct relationship with those who are now suffering, we offer our condolences to all those affected by these disasters. Our words may not be delivered to people who are so far away, but our thoughts and prayers will be. To all of our Prince William Sound readers who will again take some time for reflection and remembering on March 27th, we also send our thoughts and prayers.

The Board of Commissioners, the Staff and Your Friends at NPRHA

HOMEOWNERS !!!

Many of our first Mutual Help home projects are nearing the end of their MHOAs. Recent homebuyers who have become *Homeowners* are:

John and Pat Christensen and **Norma Selanoff** of Chenega Bay; **Loretta Stellwag** and **Betty Totemoff** from Tatitlek; and **Thelma Christoffersen Barnum** of Valdez.

Congratulations!

“Projects are...new roofs on our apartments in Cordova, boiler out-buildings and new boilers in Chenega, and the BHWC in Port Graham.”

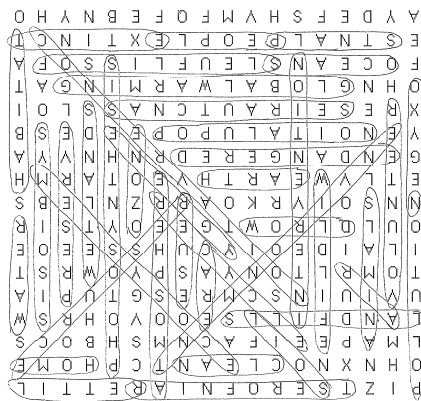
All NPRHA offices will be closed:

March 25 **Chenega Day**
March 28 **Seward’s Day**



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 17	St. Patrick’s Day
March 20	First Day of Spring
March 22-25	NPRHA All-Staff Training in Anch.
March 26	Chenega Day
March 28	Seward’s Day
April 1	April Fool’s Day
April 18	Extended IRS Deadline for Tax Filing
April 22	Earth Day
April 24	Easter/Pascha



Answers to Riddles

1. St. O’Claus
2. With North and South poles
3. A “flour” garden

Modernization Department News



Our clocks have sprung forward, and so has the Mod department. Projects that were in a "holding pattern" during the heavy winter months are gearing up for continuing work.

Weatherization work has begun on the duplexes in Port Graham and on two more homes in Nanwalek. If you have applied and are still waiting for services through this program, perhaps we are missing something in your application. See the related information under Housing Highlights on page 3.

One home is complete and another is nearly ready in Port Graham. A home that has undergone a rebuild after a fire is ready for occupancy and will be filled shortly. A single family home being built will be completed soon, with a happy homebuyer and family moving in by the end of April. No spring cleaning needed in these houses this year!

We welcome everyone into their new homes.

Projects moving into their next phase of construction soon are new roofs on our apartments in Cordova, boiler outbuildings and new boilers in Chenega, and the Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (BHWC) in Port Graham. Materials for the Cordova projects will be ordered this spring, while materials for Chenega are on site. The foundation is already in place in Port Graham for the BHWC.



Did You Know?

- Earth Day is the day where everyone is supposed to help clean up the earth so it isn't so polluted.
- The first Earth Day was celebrated on March 21st, the day of the Spring equinox, but is officially recognized in the U.S. as being April 22nd. World Environment Day is June 6th.
- More than 20 million people across the U.S. are estimated to have participated in the first Earth Day. Now,



- every year Earth Day is celebrated by more than a billion people in 180 nations around the world.
- Every hour, Americans discard 2.5 million plastic bottles!
- The first income tax in the U.S. was enacted in 1862 to finance the Civil War. The permanent income tax became law in 1913, with the passage of the 16th Amendment.
- There are over 7 million words in the tax law and



- regulations. That beats the BIBLE (773,000 words), the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (1,337 words), and the GETTYSBURG ADDRESS (269 words) combined.
- The IRS sends out 8 billion pages of forms and instructions each year. Laid end to end, they would stretch 28 times around the earth.
- Nearly 300,000 trees are cut down yearly to produce the paper for all the IRS forms and instructions.





north pacific rim housing authority

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PRESORT STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
ANCHORAGE, AK
PERMIT NO. 447

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mission Statement

It is our mission to provide safe, sanitary and affordable housing for tribal members and members of the Native community, to promote responsible home ownership, rental units, transient housing, Elder housing and other special needs housing and community programs; to develop and manage housing based upon the needs of our local communities.

NPRHA Staff

Executive Department:

Olen Harris—Executive Director

Administrative Services Department:

Barry Moring—Chief Financial Officer
Amanda Trangmoe—Controller
Crystal Barr—Administrative Assistant/Payroll
Maria Geiger—Administrative Assistant/AP
Mercedes Yanez—Administrative Assistant
Yvonne Krenzela—Accounting Services Consultant

Housing Services Department:

Brenda Christoffersen—Housing Manager
Cheryl Andrew—Housing Services Specialist
Danielle Deer—Seward Regional Housing Manager
Emilie Swenning—Nanwalek Rental Manager
Lennette Ronnegard—Cordova Village Manager
Melinda Smith—Valdez Village Coordinator

Building Services Department:

Jon Austermuhl—Building Services Manager
Herman Geffe, Jr.—LR Maintenance/Village Coordinator (TAT)
James Angaiak—LR Maintenance/Village Coordinator (CB)
Karl Thiele—LR Maintenance/Village Coordinator (PG)
John Boone—Valdez Rental Maintenance
Ken Michener—Seward Rental Maintenance
Mike Conway—LR/MH Maintenance Supervisor
Ralph Bullis—Cordova Rental Maintenance
Sebastian Demas—Nanwalek Rental Maintenance
Walter Wilson—LR/MH Maintenance Supervisor

Modernization Department:

Randy Norman—Modernization Manager
Ernie Berestoff—Procurement Assistant/Expeditor
Tia Wakolee—Procurement Specialist