The Housing Improvement Program

by Howard Roy

You must submit a new housing application every year to be eligible for service. The deadline for the year 2000 Housing Improvement Program applications is December 1, 1999. Applications turned in after this date will not be accepted for 2000 but will be placed on the list for 2001.

It has been a busy month and looks like it will remain busy the rest of the year. We have almost completed all of the NAHASDA clients for 1998 and are ready to begin working on the FY99 clients' list.

We have begun our fund raising as well. We have one men's 12-speed, one women's 10-speed and one small boy's bicycle that will be raffled off individually. Raffle tickets can be purchased in Siletz from Tammy Wagner or Caroline Easter, and are available at the area offices. The HIP Committee - Mike Darcy, June Austin, Nancy McCrary, and Reggie Butler - also will have tickets, which are $1 each or six for $5. The proceeds will help provide minor emergency repairs for low-income elders.

We're also working on having a booth at the pow-Wow. We have a few volunteers, but need a lot more. We would like people to sign up and volunteer for a couple hours at a time. Everyone is encouraged to volunteer and help us help the elders. Call Tammy Wagner at 800-922-1399, ext. 261, or 541-444-8261 if you are interested in volunteering. Please leave a message if she is unavailable.

JC Sentry in Toledo has started a program to donate money to non-profit organizations. For every $5 of groceries you purchase, you receive a Smart Shopper Stamp. You then redeem the stamps for discounts on certain items. If you place an extra stamp on each card, they give you a "Community Service Stamp." It is placed on a Community Service Project Sheet located at the store. When that sheet is full, JC Sentry donates $20 to your organization. We have placed the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Elder's Emergency Repairs on the board. So if you shop there, remember to put an extra stamp on your card, get a Community Service Stamp, and put it on our sheet. Every little bit helps.

We received several applications for the On-call Building Inspector Training. Classes began May 17 and will continue on Mondays during June. Class training in the field starts in July. Applicants were approved at the Housing Board meeting on May 10, 1999. They will receive college credit through Portland State University and will become nationally certified structural inspectors for one- and two-family dwellings.

They include Siletz Tribal members Michael Wilson, Tim Mason, Travis Mason, Thomas Siniscal, Josh Rilatos, Gary Belegarde, Robert Bayya, and Alton Butler; Kenneth Black, Quileute; Tammy Wagner, Quileute and Makah; Howard Roy, Coos; and non-tribal members Edward Wilson, Michael Huff and Scott Hansen.

The Building Department is going well. Howard attended a Computer Assisted Drawing (CAD) training to learn how to do drawings for the Homeowner's Rehabilitation Projects. We also have installed software that lets us to do our own permits and tracking for Tribally owned land.

Tammy helped Frank Petersen, Naomi Shadwick and Dan Van Otten complete a grant for the Section 8 Tenant-based Assistance Program. She also attended the Annual Secretaries Conference and will attend the NAHASDA and HIP conferences from May 21 to May 31, 1999.

We still have funding for home improvements on rental property that is privately owned or tribally owned in the Siletz area. The property, however, must be rented to low-income Tribal members with an agreement not to raise the rent for five years. Please do not wait until the last minute to apply for Housing Improvement Program or NAHASDA services.

Home Improvement Program and Indian Health Service water and septic applications are available at all area offices or can be obtained by contacting Tammy Wagner at 541- 444-8261 or 800-922-1399, ext. 261.

The purpose of the Home Improvement Program is to provide grant assistance to Tribal members to improve their housing situations and to give them the opportunity for a safe, standard home and a suitable living environment.

Sign Up for Cultural Camp

Siletz Cultural Day Camp
August 17-20, 1999
Government Hill
Sponsored by Cultural Dept. and
Cultural Heritage Committee

Activities include basketweaving, shell necklace making, flintknapping, storytelling, leather tanning, introduction to tribal language, traditional salmon bake, and more.

Programs are asked to help with the planning and funding of the camp. Overnight camping is available for Tribal members who live outside of Siletz. You must have a chaperone, however, if you are under 18, no exceptions.

Questions? Call Selene Rilatos or Craig Whitehead at 800-922-1399, ext. 230 and ext. 246.

STOP Violence Against Indian Women Program

Volunteers are still needed for the Women's Advisory Committee. Native women from any tribe who live in the Siletz community are eligible. The committee will oversee the tribes' coordinated community response work group in developing and enhancing the tribes' response to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Volunteers will be reimbursed for expenses. Please contact Nicole Miani at 541-444-8389 or 800-922-1399, ext. 389, if you are interested in volunteering or if you have any questions about the STOP Violence Against Indian Women Program.

Reminder

Domestic Violence Counseling Services are now available for Indian women who are Siletz Tribal members or members of other tribes, and to women who are eligible for direct care or the Oregon Health Plan. This service is available at the Siletz Tribal Administration Building and the Siletz Community Health Clinic.To schedule an appointment, please call Wendi Schamp at 541-444-8278, or 800-922-1399, ext. 278.