

Single-family housing project will bring 7 new homes to Siletz in August

Program eventually will include 21 homes, building a sustainable community in Siletz

By Natasha Kavanaugh

A ground-breaking ceremony took place Oct. 29, 2012, on the Miller property located between Southwest Swan Avenue and Southwest Buford Street in Siletz.

The Siletz Single-Family Affordable Housing Development project, called the Tillamook Community, is the site of the Home of Your Own (HYO) program. The project is funded through a HUD Indian Housing Block Grant.

The program offers low-income Siletz Tribal members who cannot get a home loan and have no down payment saved an opportunity to become a homeowner.

Phase I construction began in November 2012 and should be completed by Aug. 2, 2013. This phase consists of the first seven homes – two 2-bedroom, three 3-bedroom and two 4-bedroom units, all designed to be energy-efficient; and infrastructure, streets, sidewalks and a park area.

Cearley Construction LLC, owned by Siletz Tribal member Jeremy Cearley of Estacada, Ore., is building the homes.

Working closely on the project is Siletz Tribal Housing Department staff members Rob Smith, development/modernization manager; Sami Jo Difuntorum, Housing executive director; and the Force Account Crew.

“This project is unique in design. Working with Rob Smith and Sami Jo to value engineer some things has saved quite a bit of money on this project. I enjoy having the Force Account Crew on the job doing the foundations. It has allowed me to meet and work with other Tribal members. The Housing Department has put together a great crew of guys,” said Cearley.

His first job for the Tribe was the Portland Area Office tenant improvement (TI) remodel project.

“I was awarded that project and opened up Cearley Construction in 2008,” he said.

In the past five years, he has completed the Gwee-Shut Apartments in Siletz with his project manager, Ed Williams; multiple private homeowner rehab projects for the STHD Rehabilitation Housing Improvement Program; Force Account Crew’s maintenance shop; and

the Aramark Uniform Company TI at the Tribe’s flex building in Salem.

“That relationship introduced me to Siletz Tribal Business Corporation, where in 2012 my wife and I became the contract managers at Hee Hee Illahee RV Resort in Salem and Logan Road RV Park in Lincoln City. We currently have four terrific employees that run the daily park operations,” said Cearley.

“I am successful today because of the Tribe. In 2000, the Tribe gave me a down payment grant to buy my first house in Milwaukie, Ore. The Tribe has sent me to multiple training programs throughout the years. Rob Smith and Tracy Bailey have been a wealth of knowledge. Steve Larrabee and Michael Phillips at STBC have helped me sharpen my skills as a business owner by giving me the opportunity and the tools to run the RV parks,” said Cearley. “In a nutshell, I have had so

many people involved in the Tribe help me throughout my career. If one person had not been so generous with advice, I would not have the skills today to be doing this project and I am grateful for the opportunities the Tribe has made available.”

Phase II of HYO

Phase II of the new program will begin when funding is in place.

“We will build additional houses each year as Tribal members apply and funds are available. We intend to build additional homes in future years in both Siletz and Lincoln City,” said Difuntorum

The HYO program is not part of the current Mutual Help homeownership program, which still is available for existing homes.

HYO participants will complete a financial education course to strengthen credit scores and learn about budgeting,

use of credit, saving, banking and predatory lending.

These homes are available on a lease-to-own basis. Qualified participants have the option to purchase the home after the lease period reaches six months and for up to three years. Financing will be available through the Tribe at 3 percent interest.

The application process includes screening credit, employment, income level and landlord references, all similar to a standard mortgage. STHD will factor in disability, health and safety issues in the selection process, with grants awarded from a waiting list.

Selection will be on a first-come, first-served basis with a stipulation of one-time assistance per household every six years. Tribal members living anywhere in the United States can use this program.

For more information and to apply, contact Brett Lane, admissions specialist, at 541-444-8317 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1317.



Photos by Diane Rodriguez

Housing and infrastructure construction continues at the Tillamook Community in Siletz.



Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow

Attention Siletz Tribal Artists

The 2013 Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow Committee once again is having a logo contest for the upcoming pow-wow in August 2013. All artists are encouraged to submit a pow-wow-themed logo.

The winning logo artist will receive a cash prize of \$250 and a professional banner with your logo. The winning artist will have his or her logo highlighted on the Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow flyers and merchandise.

Please submit your artwork to the cultural education director’s office at the Tribal Community Center or mail it to Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Attn: Pow-Wow Logo Contest, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380-0549.

All entries must be received no later than March 15, 2013.

Royalty Crown Proposals

The 2013 Pow-Wow Committee is now accepting proposals for 2013-2014 royalty crowns. Proposals are being accepted for Miss Siletz, Junior Miss Siletz and Little Miss Siletz.

Proposals for a crown are required to include art design, size of the crown and a bid for the crown or crowns of your interest. Proposals can be submitted for individual crowns, two crowns or you can submit a bid for all three crowns.

Crown proposals must be turned in to the committee no later than March 15, 2013. Proposals can be sent to: Siletz Pow-Wow Committee, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380-0549.

If you have any questions, contact Buddy Lane at 800-922-1399, ext. 1230, or 541-444-8230.