

New units help alleviate housing shortage



There are 53 new HUD homes on the Warm Springs reservation thanks to a multi-million dollar HUD mutual help grant. A second grant application will be submitted when the Local Housing Authority determines the number of homes needed on the reservation.

by Donna Behrend

Tucked away among the junipers and sagebrush and scattered across various hillsides on the Warm Springs Reservation are 53 new homes—new homes made possible through a multi-million dollar grant from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Office of Indian Programs.

Nine of the homes are located in rural areas on private land while the remaining 44 are in either the Greeley Heights, Wolf Point and Dry Creek housing subdivisions. Two of the homes have five bedrooms, 25 have four bedrooms and 26 have three bedrooms. All have two bathrooms and are between 1,000 square feet and 1,200 square feet, a size determined by HUD. The average construction cost of each home was \$55,000.

All homes are equipped with casablanca fans, carpeting, woodstoves, and carports—all amenities considered by HUD to be "luxurious." But, because the Tribal Construction department served as the general contractor for the project, enough money was saved to include those items. "We could build more with less because of tribal construction," said Delano "Satch"

Miller, housing director.

According to Miller, the new homes are "built as well as any house on the reservation. They are top quality... I wish my house was built as well."

That quality can be attributed, says Miller, to the rigid inspections conducted by tribal inspectors. It was originally anticipated that some families could move into their homes by Christmas, but "construction problems with the sub-contractors" delayed the moves until after the first of the year. "Because of our rigid standards, some of the work wasn't approved... the quality of the homes reverts back to the inspectors." The delays and crucial inspections were beneficial to the new home owners.

Monthly payments are based on income and family size and can fluctuate with income. Each homeowner carries a 25-year contract with HUD through the local Housing Authority (LHA). However, Miller explained that payments can be accelerated. Minimum monthly payments are set at \$95.

Before moving in, prospective home owners were required, by HUD, to participate in a comprehensive training program. The pro-

gram included sessions in cleaning, basic maintenance, toilet tune-up and storage techniques. Families could not move into their homes until the training was completed.

The LHA determined, even before construction began, who qualified for the homes, based on need, income and family size. Minimum annual income was \$10,000. The LHA says who stays and who doesn't stay in the homes. The housing department will inspect the homes on an annual basis and will make recommendations to the LHA.

A second grant application for additional homes will be submitted after the LHA determines the need for more homes on the reservation. And, the major factors that will determine if the Tribe receives the grant or not will be the final outcome of the management assessment that was done in November and "how the operation is running now," said Miller.

With 200 names on the housing waiting list, the shortage of homes is apparent. And, says Miller, the list doesn't get any shorter. Perhaps these new HUD homes are the answer to a prevailing problem in Warm Springs.



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Behrend

Each new home features either three, four or five bedrooms, two bathrooms, utility rooms and special amenities such as casablanca fans, wood stoves, carpeting and carports. The small but efficient kitchens are adjacent to the dining area and have proven to be convenient for the new homeowners.

DEC helps to control diabetes

A newly formed group in Warm Springs, DEC (Diabetes Education and Control) Project will work to control Type II diabetes through diet, exercise, and in some cases, medication, according to Eva Montee, Wellness Program coordina-

tor. The DEC Project is a joint effort through Indian Health Service and the Wellness Program.

There has been a great concern in Type II diabetes in Warm Springs. Type II is a milder form of diabetes

which can be controlled through diet and exercise. According to Montee even those having to take insulin can also be greatly helped through diet and exercise.

The DEC Project group will meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday every week from 8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. at the Community Center. The agenda for each day is as follows:

8:00 to 8:15 a.m.—Meeting and greeting everyone and volunteer finger stick checks to monitor blood sugar levels.

8:15 to 9:00 a.m.—Exercise in chairs, standing, moving, walking, using exercise equipment such as treadmill, bicycles, rowing machines, group exercise activities (at this time the group is doing ball kicking, catching, throwing and volleyball).

9:00 to 9:15 a.m.—Diabetes education (one session is on "foot care" by Viola Govenor) and nutritious snacks (orange juice available each day and Fridays offer additional snacks). A doctor will be present at most of the meetings.

If you have any questions contact Eva Montee at 553-1161, ext. 205 or stop by her Wellness office at the Community Counseling Center.



Diet and exercise help control diabetes.



Participants keep a close eye on blood sugar levels.

Moran: "We can't do it by ourselves"

After spending 23 years as a law enforcement officer, Bob Moran has come to realize one thing. Police officers can't combat problems by themselves. The solution requires a cooperative effort among law enforcement agencies, court and, most importantly, the community. Not any one entity can fight crime by themselves.

Moran last worked in Warm Springs as a tribal police officer in 1970 and 1971 while studying police science at Central Oregon Community College. Since then he has worked as a Bureau of Indian Affairs Agency Special Officer at seven reservations in Minnesota, Montana, Washington and Nevada. He returns to Warm Springs from Red Lake, Minnesota as special officer replacing Jerome Main, who transferred to the Billings Area Office in Montana last summer.

Moran has been in Warm Springs about two months and has spent a fair amount of time refamiliarizing himself with the area and nearby law enforcement agencies and personnel. He also attended the National Law Enforcement Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

But, says Moran, he has spent much of his time traveling to Red Lake where he was involved in the apprehension of 17 major drug dealers on or near that reservation.

What worked at Red Lake, says Moran, was "selective enforcement," where certain people were pinpointed as dealers and were black-balled by the community. "Peer pressure put them out of business." Also, a "get tough" policy was essential as well as beneficial. A first offense and conviction brought a mandatory six months in jail for every count; the second offense brought expulsion from the reservation for up to one year.

A similar plan could be enforced here, says Moran, and work. He added that since he's been here, "it's been confirmed there is heavy traffic in cocaine, heroine, marijuana, hash and LSD" on the reservation. "Hopefully, we'll clean up the drug problem here."

"Cocaine and/or crack seem to be the drugs of abuse on the reservation." Through education, such as the "Just Say No" club at Warm

Springs elementary, community efforts, strong law enforcement action and consistent court mandates, drug dealing and drug abuse will be curtailed. Moran says that reservations across the nation are experiencing the same problems and success has come through community support and driving drugs from the reservations by whatever means.

The Warm Springs Tribal Council is aware of drug problems and is concerned. They have directed the tribal court, prosecutor, police and BIA law enforcement to formulate a reservation drug ordinance as well as further investigate and increase awareness in drugs and child abuse. These two steps may indeed "drive drugs" and prevent abuse in Warm Springs.



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Behrend

Agency Special Officer Bob Moran has worked in law enforcement for 23 years. His office wall is the resting place for the many badges and insignias collected from different agencies throughout his career.