

Housing project encourages ownership

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Modular homes that were used as temporary housing at Celilo Village are being re-located to the reservation.

The eight homes will be located at the trailer court area, and will then be available for occupancy.

Work crews have been preparing the home sites, leveling and pouring the foundations, and installing the water and plumbing, power and telephone hook-ups.

The homes, currently at the industrial park, will be transported to their permanent sites at the end of this month and early next month.

The homes were occupied at Celilo for about a year. Families lived in them while their new homes were being built as part of the Celilo restoration project.

When that project was finished, Warm Springs Housing Authority executive director Jeff Sanders became aware that the homes were being put up for sale.

The cost of \$18,000 per home was very reasonable, and Housing made the purchase. There is also moving fee per house, so each has been offered for sale to tribal members at about \$24,000 per unit.



Housing construction workers Nathan Williams and Kanim Smith prepare the site for one of the new modular homes.

Housing is making no profit on the sales. Instead, the purpose of the project is to help some families with home ownership, said Sanders.

His hope is that all of the homes will be purchased, rather than rented. But with the current economy, he's not sure that will happen. About half of the

units are spoken for, with the remaining ones available.

The homes can be purchased with no down payment, and a monthly payment of around \$200. "I know that can be a lot of money to many families," said Sanders. "Right now things are difficult with our unemployment."

The doublewide modular homes are 1,100 to 1,200 square feet in size.

They have refrigerators, stoves and dishwashers. A person would have to show a certain minimum income in order to make the purchase. For more information, please call Housing at 553-3250.

Residents can replace wood stove with furnace

The tribal Housing Authority is offering a way for residents to improve the heating system and air quality of their homes, while saving money on their power bill.

"We've been looking for ways to create what we call 'healthy homes,'" said Jeff Sanders, Housing Authority executive director. "And we're trying to find ways to help the residents save money, including saving on energy costs."

The new program—replacing wood stoves with wood furnaces—meets both of these goals, said Sanders. The program is available to families in Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing.

HUD funding is making the program possible. Sanders said he hopes the tribes can also make the program available to people in tribal housing in the future.

There are a number of problems that the furnace program will address, said Glenn Holister, owner of High Country Electric, a contractor who works with the tribes. For instance, he said, in the wintertime the existing wood stoves in many homes heat only the front room where the stove is located.

The back rooms are

mostly uninhabitable because they are so cold, said Holister. So the family stays in the front room because that's where it's warm.

These homes can have moisture and mold problems because of a lack of air circulation, said Holister.

The furnace burns wood more efficiently, creating more heat with less wood, and the furnace blower circulates the warm air through the house.

The system is designed also to pre-heat the household water, further saving on electricity costs.

The furnace can be connected to a home's existing duct system, replacing the wood stove. The system operates with a thermostat, heating up and cooling down as necessary. A fan system operating on a timer brings in fresh air, improving the air inside the residence.

Sanders said the program makes sense for the reservation, because so many people rely on the wood in the wintertime for heating.

He said that Housing will be putting together a brochure explaining the program. For more information, please call Housing at 553-3250.

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Events and activities

Native Day Camp is at the Warm Springs Community Center every Wednesday morning from 10-11:30 a.m. in Carol's Room.

Merle Kirk will be teaching language and Carol will offer a craft session for kids.

The Warm Springs Music Project is meeting each week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Family Resource Center.

From 5 til 9. Anyone interested in music is invited to attend.

The next 6-week series of **childbirth education classes** starts this Wednesday, August 26 at the Family Resource Center from noon-1 p.m. for women whose babies are due before September 26.

More information is available at 553-2460 ext 4162.

To reach the Spilyay Tymoo, please call 553-2307, or 553-2210.

The next deadline to submit items for publication in the Spilyay is Friday, Sept. 4. Thank you!

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