

# No waiting list for home repairs

■ Low-income homeowners can receive up to \$10,000 for home repair.

By Brent Merrill

Tribal members who own their own home can be eligible to receive a \$10,000 grant to do health and safety repair work on their primary residence. Homeowners must meet income requirement guidelines and live in the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority's expanded 10 county service area.

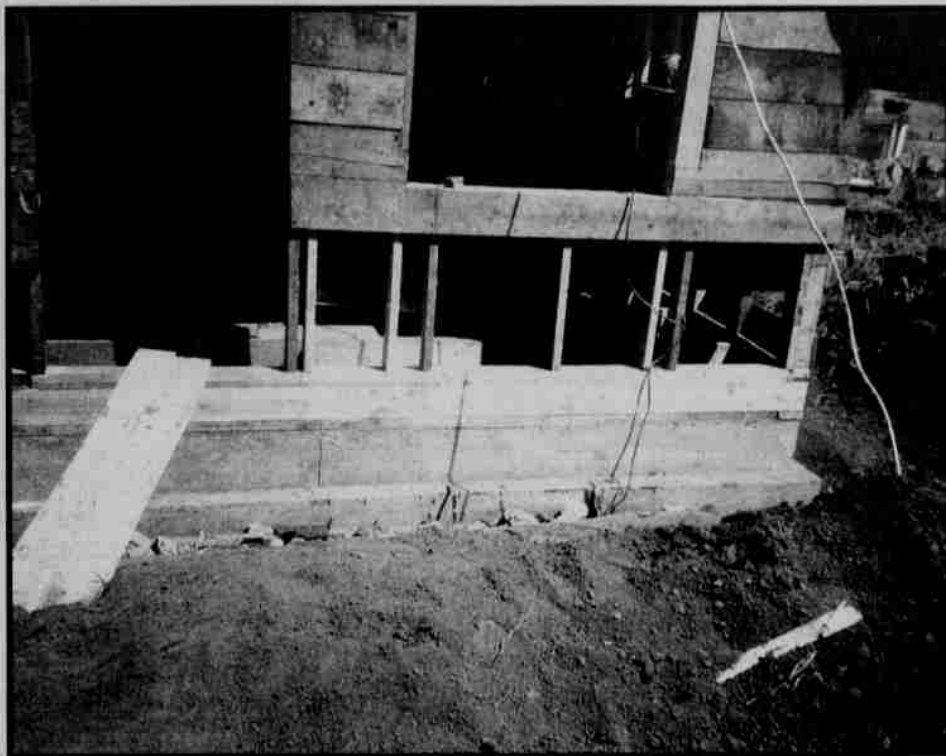
The Tribe's six county service area includes Polk, Yamhill, Tillamook, Marion, Multnomah and Washington counties. The Housing Authority has added Lincoln, Clackamas, Linn and Benton counties to their service area for this grant.

According to Housing Authority Director Linda Layden, quality control is the main reason for keeping the grants located in the service area.

"It is easier to monitor the quality of the work being done if we keep it to ten counties," said Housing Improvement Specialist Lonnie Leno.

Recipients may receive up to three grants not to exceed the \$10,000 limit. Mobile home owners are eligible to receive as much as \$3,000 for health and safety related repair. Mobile homes made after 1976 are considered manufactured homes and are eligible for the full \$10,000 grant.

Meeting the homeowner's basic need is the goal of the home repair grants. The grants cover replacement of roofing, wood damage, heating replacement or repair, plumbing work, electrical work, foundation replace-



Replacing your home's foundation is an example of the type of repairs that can be done with the Housing Authority's Home Repair Grants.

ments and weatherization.

Layden said homeowners must be willing to stay in their homes for five years after the grant or they must repay the grant.

The home repair program has changed said Housing Improvement Specialist Lonnie Leno. Recipients can receive \$10,000 - which is down from \$20,000.

"With the old grant we had to bring each individual house up to a certain standard before we could do any work," explained Leno. "We had to

do everything to the house, we couldn't just do part of the house. Now, the way this grant is written, we can come in and just do roofing repairs or just do a foundation. And, by reducing the amounts we can do a lot more jobs for people."

"Now, we address basic needs that are requested," said Layden.

Layden and Leno explained that in the past, people might request a new roof. The way the grant was written, if the home's electrical wiring wasn't up to standard it would

have to be replaced as well. Some times the applicant would have to move out of the home while extensive repairs were made. Now, if someone requests only a new roof, the roof issue is addressed and a recommendation is made to on any other problems.

"We do an inspection and make recommendations to them," said Layden. "We let them know more help is available if they need or want it."

The way the new grant is written, the service is more personalized and not so all encompassing.

To apply for a home repair grant, call the housing authority office and request an application. The application will be sent to you along with grant guidelines and requirement information. After the applicant's approval is given, Leno will come out to the home and inspect. After the inspection is conducted, Leno will do a cost estimate.

Leno said he keeps a list of prequalified contractors who are available to do the repair work. Leno has checked references of the contractors and cleared them with the state for approval. Some of the contractors are tribal members.

If applicants have a particular contractor in mind they can suggest the name to Leno to be checked out.

Applicants will be served in order of the date of their applications and currently, there is no waiting list. Elders will be given first priority.

## Elder housing nears completion

By Linda Layden

The Elder housing project is starting to get exciting, as it is nearing completion for August.

This means there is a lot of interest, and people are now going to the site and looking around. This causes problems for the workers, as well as a concern for the well being of those on site.

This is a construction site and it is dangerous — with cement trucks, heavy equipment, construction workers carrying large materials. It is also a concern to the workers that someone could get injured. Because this is a safety concern we have posted "DANGER, DO NOT ENTER" signs at the entrance.

If anyone needs access to the site, please check with the Housing Authority at 879-2403. If access is required, arrangements will be made. We will make an effort to accommodate Elders or others who have a direct interest in seeing the project. Thank you — see you at the dedication in early August!

## No waiting list of Minor Medical home adaptations

The Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority has had limited response to their notice of the availability of minor medical housing adaptation grants.

Tribal members, or members of their household with physical challenges, are eligible to receive home remodeling to allow easier access into and within their homes. Wheel chair access ramps, toilet supports, shower to tub conversions, hand-held shower faucets and grab bars are just some of the home improvements available through the Tribe's Housing Authority.

According to Housing Authority Director Linda Layden, there is no waiting list to receive these services. For more information, please call Lonnie Leno at 879-2405 or 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2405.

## Tribe looks to Water Association for approval of new housing units

By Brent Merrill

The Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority recently approached the Grand Ronde Community Water Association board for new hook-up approval for a planned 32-unit housing project. The new housing site is located across from the Tribe's current Elder housing project site.

The new project is part of the Tribe's overall effort to provide housing for tribal members. The first step in the process is gaining approval for water from the Water Association.

Capitol Projects Manager John Mercier informed the Water Association board of the Housing Authority's interest in obtaining the new hook-ups at their regular meeting on Thursday, April 13.

"Our next project is a 32-unit sub-

division for family units in Grand Ronde," said Mercier. "We're hoping to move forward with the infrastructure construction this fall. What we're asking is that before we invest significant dollars into engineering on how to provide water, we're asking for approval of 32 hookups conditional upon your requirements."

Members of the board listened to the Housing Authority's request and although they didn't issue a denial, the board indicated approval would be dependent on meeting their requirements.

"What we hoped to get is an indication from them as to whether or not they were receptive to giving us an approval," said Housing Authority Director Linda Layden. "They

didn't disapprove it, they said put an application in. So, that is encouraging. We hope to work with the Water Association to try to accomplish our goals in regards to providing housing for tribal members."

The Housing Authority has shared their plans for 200-300 homes in the future with the Water Association several times. The first three phases of housing construction include 106 units.

Phase one was the 38-unit Elder housing complex. Phase two is the current plan for 32 single-family units and phase three is an additional 36 units.

Phase one is nearly finished and on track for an August completion date. Phase two is in the design pro-

cess and the Housing Authority would like to begin construction later this year. Phase three is scheduled to be designed in 2002 and construction, if approved, would begin in late 2002 or early 2003.

Currently, the Water Association reports overall system usage at just over 200 gallons of water per minute and that doubles to 400 gallons per minute in the summer months.

The Water Association is currently doing repair work on existing water lines and working on doubling their capacity to provide water for local needs. The Water Association is also working on tapping into new water sources.

Tribal members Ken Schmid and Dennis Zimbrick are on the board.