



Heart of the Homes Newsletter



Volume 1 , Issue 5

December 2001

MISSION

STATEMENT

The mission of the Interior Regional Housing Authority, Tribally Designated Housing Entity of the Tribes of the DOYON region is to work in partnership with the Tribes that have, by certification and resolution agreed to be part of the Indian Housing Plan.

This partnership shall provide affordable, safe and sanitary housing for the low to moderate income Native Americans in the Interior of Alaska.

This mission shall be accomplished by working cooperatively with tribal entities throughout the region to promote self-sufficiency through the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA)

Director's Message

I would like to take this moment and wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. In the month of November the Planning Department met with Northway, Dot Lake and McGrath to discuss FY 2002 NAHASDA projects. If any Tribes have questions about their FY 2002 NAHASDA project please contact Charlisa Attla, Tribal Planning Director.



NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT [NAHASDA] Training Offered by IRHA

By Kim Wood, Administrative Officer

IRHA is sponsoring a NAHASDA Basics training workshop to be held in Fairbanks, December 12 & 13, 2001, at the Wedgewood Resort. Upon completion of the workshop, participants should:

- * have a thorough understanding to be able to cross reference applicable federal laws, regulations, policies and procedures;
- * have a thorough understanding of sound management practices and the need for them;
- * be able to prepare (or assist in preparing) a strategic and comprehensive management plan;
- * have a better understanding of evaluating and monitoring various management performance functions of the IRHA's housing programs;
- * assist in planning future housing needs;
- * have a thorough understanding of the organizational structure of IRHA;
- * have a better understanding of the difference between the various roles of tribal leaders and members of the IRHA governing body;
- * be able to develop policies and procedures in accordance with NAHASDA and the Final Rules implementing NAHASDA.

This workshop was originally planned for IRHA employee attendance, but would benefit all areas served by IRHA, therefore, consider this an open invitation for your attendance.

To register, please call IRHA at 452-8315 and let the Receptionist know that you will be attending. There is room for 60 people to attend, so please register early, as it will be first come, first serve. There will be a continental breakfast and hot lunch provided each day of the workshop.

Sleeping rooms will not be provided at IRHA expense, but are available for \$65 per night, double or single occupancy. You may make your reservations by calling the Wedgewood Resort at (907) 456-3642 or (800) 528-4916, be sure to let them know that you will be attending the workshop.

Telephone Listings

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This is a recent photo of a 3 bedroom home completed in Shageluk. Chuck Erhart is the Project foreman and completed two other similar homes and is currently working on a 4th home. He and his crew have done an excellent job and the new homeowners are very pleased. By Helen Wissman

The Last Newsletter Before Christmas [By Kim Wood, Administrative Officer]

T'was the last newsletter before Christmas, and all through the IRHA halls, every employee was busy working and fielding all sorts of calls;

A broken furnace here, a froze pipe there, winter was working it's wonder and not bringing much cheer;

Pat Thomas was frantic looking at his list, and realizing that he and his crew couldn't be in five places at once, he beat his desk with his fist;

Carl Hoffman and his Foremen were busy working up construction plans for 2002, as Helen Wissman and Debra Cooper attended to the details of their every move;

Charlisa Attla and Bob Parker were busy doing what Planners do, and when the planning was done, began planning anew;

The calculators were busy in the Finance Department, checking once, then twice, ensuring all the funds were accounted for, and the books looked nice;

Robin Johnson stamped her housing payment notices with her newest Christmas stamp, while Brian Leal and Marvin took care of other housing business at hand;

The papers were piled high on Dene Sommer's desk, as she ran from office to office fulfilling all the latest IRHA historical information requests;

Bill Duquette and his crew were putting supplies away for a long winter's sleep, as visions of vacations jumped through their minds like white, fluffy sheep;

Misty Parker was at the front desk answering the phone and compiling the newsletter, searching for the newest clip art to make it look better and better.

With the last days of 2001 rapidly approaching, and the last of the projects almost complete, Mr. Wilson asked the employees to go to the conference room to meet. As the employees sat and waited, some filled with fright, after a moment of silence he simply stated...

what are you all still doing here, you dedicated bunch, it's Christmas Eve, go home to your families...

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night ☺





**Meet MISTY PARKER,
IRHA Receptionist/Newsletter Editor**
[By Kim Wood, Administrative Officer]

Misty was born and raised in the Fairbanks area, to Adrianna [Erhart] Parker, originally from Tanana, and Robert Parker. Upon interviewing Misty, I found that she is related to Amelia Earhart, the famous woman pilot, and Chester Seveck, whose friendly face adorns every Alaska Airlines Jet.

Prior to Alaska Statehood, Chester and his wife were invited to California to represent Alaska. When they were asked what impressed them the most on their visit, they replied that it was "walking into one room, the door closing, and when it opened, they were in another room". Misty tells me, they were referring to the elevator in the hotel. There was a book

published on Chester's life entitled My Life As A Reindeer Herder.

Misty began working for IRHA in March of 2000 as the Receptionist, aside from answering the phones and greeting walk-ins, Misty assists all departments with anything that needs to be done. In July, Misty took on the responsibility of compiling, formatting and distributing the monthly IRHA newsletter. If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, be sure to let her know.

Misty enjoys numerous hobbies, including computers, a variety of arts and crafts and flower arrangement, to name a few. In the future, one of Misty's goals is to open her own business in the Fairbanks, specifically, a dance club.



THREE NEW HOMES - For Sale!!!

By Dene Sommer, Housing Dept. Manager/Mortgage Loan Director

Located in North Pole are 3 new houses built by IRHA. Each 3 bedroom house is situated on 1.142 acre lots. Quiet and secluded, these homes are ideal for children, pets and gardens. A notice will be out in the near future as to when an open house will be held. Prior to the open house, interested parties are welcome to call Bob Parker at (907) 452-8315 for an appointment to see the homes. IRHA can assist interested families in purchasing one of these homes through the Tribal Equity Advantage Mortgage (TEAM) Program. The TEAM Program has assisted many families in buying their first home for the last 2 years. Marvin Carroll, Loan Coordinator will be happy to answer your questions and assist you with the application.



NO, YOU DON'T PAY RENT!

By Robin Johnson, Resident Services Occupancy Specialist

Lately I have been getting calls from HOMEBUYERS asking "how much rent do I owe?" I would like to take this time to explain to all of our homebuyers that *you don't pay rent!* Each payment that you make or don't.... is a house payment. These payments are due on the first of each month and late on the 10th of each month. Late fees are applied according to our MHOA policies. It is important to understand the difference between rent and house payments. When you pay **rent** you are only

paying for usage of the dwelling from month to month. When you make a **house payment** you are bringing down the principal amount owed on the house making you one step closer to owning the home and never having to make payments on it again. IRHA has been working closely with homeowners to bring delinquent accounts current. This is very important to understand, the notices you receive are not intended to harass or intimidate you, but rather to help you become a homeowner in good standing. Homebuyers that are delinquent and need to make a payback agreement are highly encouraged to call Robin Johnson in the housing department to set up a payback agreement.



**INTERIOR
REGIONAL HOUSING**

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Merry Christmas

IRHA OFFICE CLOSURES FOR DECEMBER

The administrative office of the Interior Regional Housing Authority will be closed on the following days in December for holiday/s observance:

December 24 & 25 - Christmas Holiday
December 31 & January 1, 2001 - New Years



IRHA is a non-profit organization whose authority is derived from both State and Federal law. The IRHA was formed in 1974 along with 13 other housing authorities to administer the Housing and Urban Development Program throughout Alaska.

The IRHA staff is available to help you answer any questions that you may have. Drop by our office at 828 27th Avenue, Fairbanks or call (907) 452-8315 or 1-800-478-4742.

Inside this issue

| | <u>Page</u> |
|---|-------------|
| Mission Statement..... | 1 |
| Director's Message..... | 1 |
| NAHASDA Training..... | 1 |
| Telephone Directory..... | 2 |
| Completed Home Shageluk..... | 2 |
| The last newsletter before Christmas..... | 2 |
| Biography on Misty Parker..... | 3 |
| Houses for sale..... | 3 |
| Clarification on House Payments..... | 3 |

Board of Commissioners

Edna Hancock, Chairperson
Nenana
832-5461

Orville Huntington, Vice-Chairperson
Huslia
829-2266

Daisy Northway
Secretary/Treasurer
Tok
883-5768

Henry Deacon, Commissioner
Grayling
453-5128

Woodie Salmon, Commissioner
Chalkyitsik
848-8046



**Merry Christmas
and please
have a safe and
Happy New Year!!**