



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®
Portland District

July
2008

Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter

A newsletter keeping you informed about upcoming meetings and providing updates as the Corps continues Celilo Village redevelopment.

Celilo Falls long served as a trade center, sacred fishing ground and gathering place for the Northwest Indian tribes. When The Dalles Dam was constructed, the falls were flooded. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided a new location near the original falls, where about 50 people live in Celilo Village. Inadequate maintenance, as well as sanitary and water systems, caused public health and safety concerns to village residents.

To resolve these problems, the Tribes requested the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to rebuild the village under the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites Project. Congress authorized the reconstruction of the village in March 2004, and the Corps expects construction to be completed by 2009.

Celilo residents move into new homes

The people of Celilo Village are now living in their new homes. To celebrate, this issue features the individuals and families of this place. The Anchetta/Frank-Spino family (at right) lives in the first house on Celilo Village Road.

Throughout the month of June residents moved from the temporary modular homes into the new site-built homes. The people moved into new homes and also a new community—new roads, sidewalks, streets lights, water, sewer and electrical systems.

Residents could choose either to have the Corps move them or to move themselves. All the residents opted to move themselves, said Corps realty specialist Susan Hill. With that option, their moving expenses are reimbursed following a fixed rate schedule, she said.

The now empty modular homes have been bought by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. Some will be moved out of the village this month and the remainder in September.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs bought seven of the large metal storage containers that were adjacent to each of the modular homes and moved them to the residents' new homes, said BIA realty specialist Lyle Fox. "We are buying six more for the residents who wanted one."

Construction update—final phase

Construction of the new Classroom/BIA office building will begin as soon as the first batch of temporary homes are moved out of the village, said Colville Tribal Services Corporation safety officer Dave Whitelaw. CTSC will grade the site, start trenching the foundation, and plan to pour concrete in early August.

CTSC will cap the water and sewer lines that serviced the temporary homes as part of this final phase of construction. Wasco County PUD has already pulled out the electrical system used for the temporary homes.



Johnathan Anchetta and wife Evelyn Frank-Spino with two week-old baby Jeremy, children Justin (left) Juliet, Johnathan Jr., niece Claudia and nephew Elijah.

"It will be nice to have a nice house to raise our new baby in," Evelyn said. "Having three bedrooms is really nice" "I like being in a good spot," Johnathan adds.



Architect's rendering of the Classroom/BIA office building

The people of Celilo Village

On these pages are photos of ten of the families and individuals who live in Celilo Village. A couple weren't able to be reached and a few chose not to have their picture taken. The pictures were taken this month when many residents had visiting relatives; they're in the photos, too. Some people wanted the picture taken inside their new home, some outside, one wanted the Columbia River in the background. The people talked about what they like best about their new homes and the reconstructed village.



Celilo Village Chief Olsen Meanus, second from right, wife Gina Talpocken (gray shirt) and their family. (Front from left) Lane, Gina, Shaniko, Olsen, Grant. (Rear) Kip, Ramona, Mitot, Clarence—surrounding the family horse Bud. Daughter Jennifer (on pogo stick) was away when family gathered for this photo. Above: Chief Meanus in headdress.

“Seeing my kids happy in their new home, laughing and playing is the best thing,” said Gina. “Our new house is lots better than what we were living in. It’s nice to have clean water, bathrooms, our own space.”

“The air conditioning,” said Olsen, “is spoiling me,”



Ronnie Jim and grandson Chris Arthur pose by the front door.

“There is lots of space in the living room and I like the huge carport,” said Ronnie. There’s a good view of the river. I like that it’s quiet [in the house] when trains go by.”

Ronnie shares the house with brother Lester.

Ronnie and Lester, like many in the village, make their living fishing along the Columbia.

Their house is one of several constructed to make the home handicap accessible.



Lana Jack talks with pride of her family heritage which goes back to generations of Wy-Am people living by Celilo Falls.



Leroy George stands in front of his wood stove. A similar one is in all the homes. "Like everything about the new house. Lots of stuff," he said.



Elder Ada Frank with grandsons Johnathan Anchetta, Jr., left, and Elijah Baxter in her living room.



The Jim family. (Back from left) Kelly, Agatha, Idamay, Maria, Simone, Ruby. (Middle) Lindy, Claudio, Bryan, Warner, Melina, Sabrina. (Front) Olivia, Allison, Antaun, Anson, Jackie

Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter is published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, to keep residents and interested members of the public informed of Celilo Village redevelopment. Project Manager: George Miller
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The village homes circle the longhouse where ceremonies, celebrations, and feasts are held.



Delilah Begay, back left, stands with children Marissa, left, Tyler, and Kelly.

"I'm happy," said Delilah. "I feel blessed to get a new home for myself and my children. I'm thankful to my elders for holding on to this land and teaching me to never leave Celilo Falls."



Eileen McDonald. Husband Terence was away when photo was taken.

"I love it—our new house," said Eileen. "It's about time. I wish it were bigger, but we need to downsize. It's a wonderful house. I love the exterior design with the logs. I like having plenty of street lighting." She wants people to know it was because of Terence's heritage they got a house in Celilo Village.



Fred Whitford and Karen Jim Whitford between grandson Leander Sky Peterson and daughter Wendy.

"This is the beginning; the Wy-Am Board goal was better houses and health care," Karen said. "I like the kids' laughter and happiness in this village now. I see kids riding bikes and scooters more than I used to. I like the view from our house."

"Everyone has lots of space; their own comfort zone," Fred said. "I like the carport, too; we can sit out there."



Kelly's headband



At the June Wy-Am board meeting residents and staff discuss the BIA's proposed lot lines for the new residences.

Next Wy-Am Board meeting

July 24, 2008, 10 a.m., Celilo Longhouse, Elders Room

The Wy-Am Board invites Celilo Village residents to attend meetings, participate in the process and provide comments.

Wy-Am Board Members

Celilo Village: Bobby Begay, Delilah Heemsah

CTUIR: Antone Minthorn, Leo Stuart

CTWS: Ron Suppah, Reuben Henry

YIN: Ruth Jim, Yvonne Colfax