

Winter

4Q—2015



BAD RIVER HOUSING AUTHORITY

Waaka'igan Mazina'igan House Paper

KaBOOM! & Dr Pepper Snapple Group Award Grant for New Odanah Playground



Example of a PlayWorld Systems playground

Bad River Housing Authority (BRHA) applied for and was awarded a grant from the national non-profit organization KaBOOM! to support development of a new playground in the New Odanah housing community. KaBOOM! is an organization dedicated to bringing balanced and active play into the daily lives of all kids, particularly those growing up in poverty in America. The grant is also supported by the Dr Pepper Snapple Group.

BRHA was awarded the **Build it Yourself Grant**, which includes **\$15,000** to be used toward playground equipment and an inclusive, community-driven design and build process. The total budget for the new playground is estimated to range from \$24,000-\$40,000, with Housing providing the additional funding needed for site prep, safety surfacing, and other equipment through its IHBG annual grant funding.

The proposed location for the new playground is at the end of Kinnick Kinnick Rd, behind the cul-du-sac. The site will encompass 2500 sq. feet of land and also include a small parking lot and an access road.

The grant requires us to work with a preferred vendor. We hope to work with Lee Recreation out of Cambridge, Wisconsin. They represent PlayWorld Systems, and you may recognize their work from the new playground near the fire station on Stuntz Ave. in Ashland. They will be instrumental in helping our community design and build a playground that we can enjoy for years to come. Proposed completion date is by Nov. 2016.

If you are interested in being a part of the community design and build process for the new playground, please contact Paula Maday at 715-682-2271 ext. 1655 or brhagrants@badriver-nsn.gov. Watch for more information soon!

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Message from the Director

Cheryl Cloud, Executive Director

Happy New Year! The beginning of a new year prompts each of us to reflect on the year gone by and to set goals for the upcoming year. The Housing Authority has completed the public input process with the tribal membership on what services/activities should be incorporated into the 2016-17 Indian Housing Plan. The eligible activity areas receiving the most input/comments were in the areas of development, crime prevention/safety and model activities.

Model Activities

- Desire for more community buildings and infrastructure
- Desire for multi-use youth/education building (to house all youth programs)
- Desire for daycare
- Desire for community swimming pool, skating rink, playing and practice fields
- Desire for closer collaboration and planning between tribal departments

COMMENT SUMMARY

Development

- Desire for apartments and smaller (1-2 BR) single family homes
- Support for a more holistic housing development approach – inclusive of community buildings, walkability and parks/playgrounds
- Desire for alternative housing development – homeless shelter, transitional housing, single family homes outside of HUD homes, sober living facilities, mother-in-law (intergenerational) duplexes
- Desire for workforce development programs in the construction/building and maintenance trades

Crime Prevention/Safety

- Improved lighting on streets and units
- Better road signing
- Curfew and neighborhood watch

High demand for resources in so many areas necessitates the Housing Authority implement use of a 5-year strategic plan. This will allow us to prioritize and identify a clear direction and a cyclical process to productively program resources. It'll focus and stabilize our efforts in each of those areas in a given timeline, and also allow us to maximize opportunities; thereby making methodical progress. To coincide with this effort, we are reviewing our organizational vision and mission statement. As they say, "Fail to plan, plan to fail." We're attempting to get poised for next generation development. We hope you'll be a proactive part of that process.



Grants Update

One of the important tasks that I have been working on is to compile an **Annual Funding Calendar** for the Housing Authority. The funding calendar will outline which grants are announced and due at which times of the year. For the upcoming quarter of January-March, we have several grants due in the area of workforce development, including a grant opportunity from the **Administration for Native Americans (ANA)** called the **Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies Initiative**, or SEEDS grant. This grant focuses on 1) the creation of sustainable employment opportunities; 2) the provision of professional training and skill development to increase participants' employability and earning potential; 3) the creation and development of small businesses and entrepreneurial activities, and; 4) a demonstrated strategy for and commitment to keeping jobs and revenue generated by project activities within the Native communities being served. With Housing's revised mission statement (see back page), which includes the offering of workforce development opportunities for Tribal members, this is the perfect time for Housing to apply for SEEDS funding.

We also have several grants coming up that focus on community planning and rural design. **The Citizens Institute on Rural Design** offers funding opportunities to connect rural communities to the resources they need in order to convert their ideas for community design into reality. And the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant** assist communities with severely distressed public or HUD-assisted housing in developing a successful neighborhood transformation plan. Both of these are solid opportunities for our Tribe to incorporate community need and values into the design of our neighborhoods. Collaboration and working together will successfully prioritize our needs.

Development & Model Activities: New Frank's Field Development

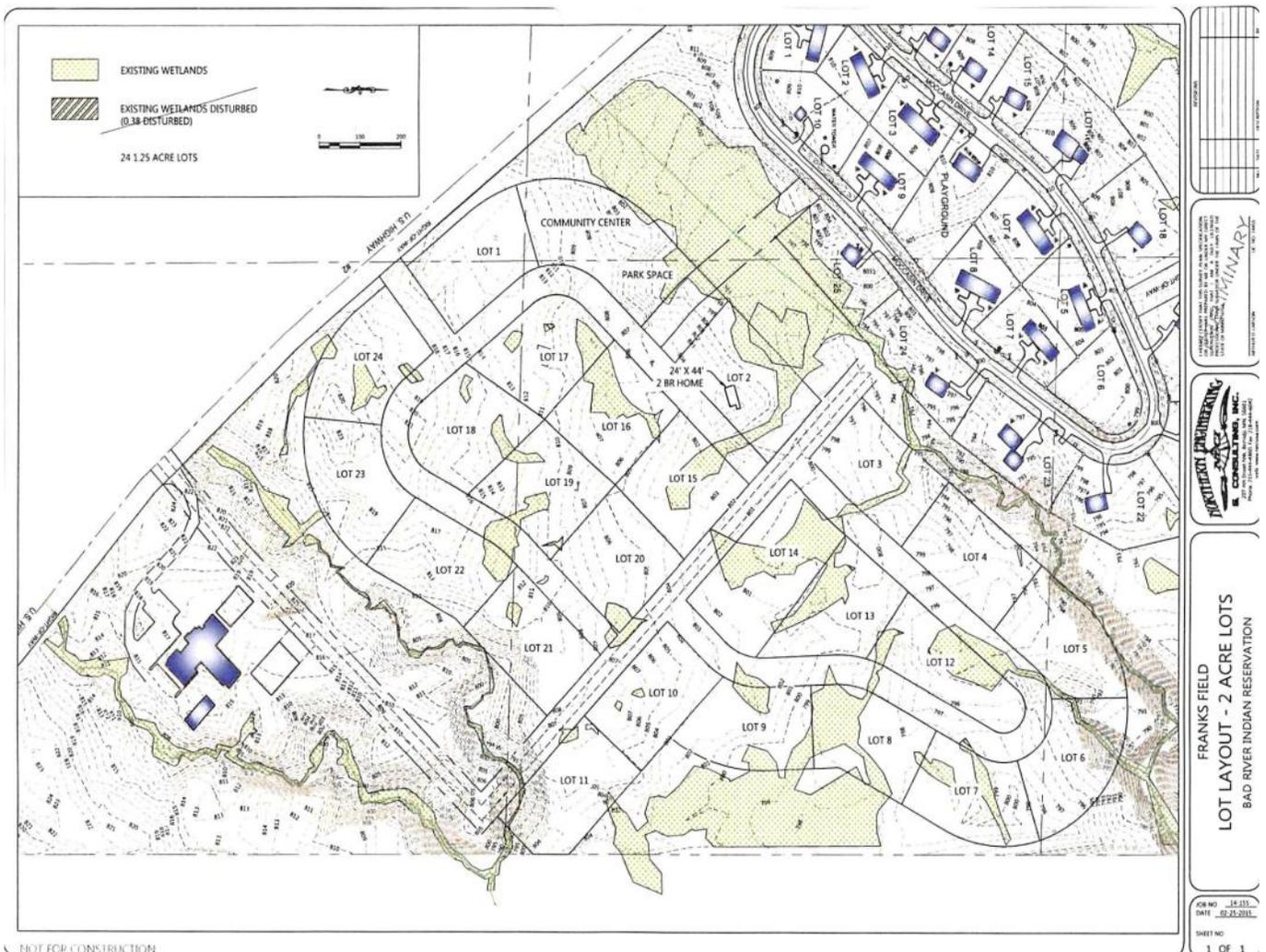
We are finalizing the design for the new housing subdivision near Frank's Field. Upon completion of the conceptual design (expected by February 2016), next steps will be road design, architectural design of the homes, environmental and pre-project clearances and initiation of infrastructure to support housing development. Estimated timeline is as follows:

- 2016-17 year – Complete all pre-project elements and begin infrastructure
- 2017-18 year – Begin housing development

Alterations to current design (below) include the following:

- Change location of the Community Center and park area to Lots 22/23
- Change road access entry point from Housing Authority side (in the housing subdivision) to be adjacent to the Housing Authority office building
- Relocation of the pavilion to the park space area and include parking in the same vicinity
- Mailboxes to be located inside the Community Center building
- Incorporation of multiple bus stops
- Incorporation of sidewalks/pedestrian paths and street lighting for walkability
- Apartment complex to be located where Community Center is shown on this design
- Housing options within this subdivision to include: small apartment building complex (rental; four 2-BR units), some intergenerational family duplexes (rental; 1 or 2-BR), a mix of single family homeownership units (2 and 4-BR)
- Design also includes a warehouse next to BRHA

One final review of the conceptual design will be completed in January 2016, prior to official approval of the site plan.



Occupancy Information: Maintaining your Utilities during Winter

Micki Corbine, Housing Manager/Counselor

As the temperature goes down and our sunlight hours get shorter, our heating and electric bills go up. It's important to remember that while it may be tempting to skip your utility payments to grab those extra Christmas gifts...

If your utilities get shut off, it's good cause for termination of your lease.

Make it a goal to stay on top of your utility payments this winter. And remember, if an emergency arises and you can't make your payment, contact your utility providers right away to let them know what is going on. Communication is key! Providers are often able to work out a payment plans for its customers, but they can't help if they don't know what's going on.

An easier way to make sure your payment is made on time is to set up automatic payments. Bayfield Electric, Xcel Energy and Ferrell Gas all offer this option, which allows a payment to be automatically deducted from your checking account or credit card on its due date. Set it and forget it!

Another tip for avoiding the rise in your winter utility costs is to enroll in a budget plan. Xcel Energy and Bayfield Electric both offer this option, which averages your energy use over the past year and comes up with a set monthly payment that you pay year-round. This alleviates sharp changes in your bill from season to season, and it's free to sign up for the program.

To discuss these and other options for your account, please contact your individual providers. Keep this newsletter handy for the contact information below:

Xcel Energy
1-800-895-4999
www.xcelenergy.com

Bayfield Electric
715-372-4287
www.bayfieldelectric.com

Ferrell Gas
715-682-4050
www.ferrellgas.com

Crime Prevention & Safety: How to Start a Neighborhood Watch



When it comes to preventing crime, there's safety in numbers and power through working with a group. By working with your neighbors, you can reduce crime, develop a more united community, provide an avenue of communications between police and citizens, establish on-going crime prevention techniques in your neighborhood, and renew citizen interest in community activity. "Citizens Safety Projects" and "Neighborhood Watch" are set up to help you do this; they are a joint effort between private citizens and local police. Such programs have been started all over the country. These organizations don't require frequent meetings (once a month or so). They don't ask anyone to take personal risks to prevent crime. They leave the responsibility for catching criminals where it belongs – with the police.

It's easy to get your group started. All you have to do is contact your neighbors and arrange a date, place and time for the first meeting. Hold the meetings at your home or that of a neighbor. Try to plan a time that is convenient to most of your neighbors – preferably in the evening. Then call your local police department. They will be happy to give your group informal lectures, free literature, and in many instances, window stickers and I.D. cards. By working with police, you will learn:

1. What to do in an emergency
2. How to best identify a suspicious person
3. How to identify a vehicle being used in a suspected criminal activity
4. Signs to watch out for before entering a house or apartment that may be in the process of being burglarized
5. What to do in case of injury
6. What to do about suspicious people loitering on your street
7. How to identify stolen merchandise
8. How to recognize an auto theft in progress
9. How to protect your house or apartment
10. How to recognize a burglary in progress
11. How to protect yourself and your family – and much more.

By cooperating with your neighbors to report suspicious activity in the neighborhood, to keep an eye on homes when a resident is away, and to keep everyone in the area mindful of the standard precautions that should always be taken for property and self, criminals will learn to avoid your neighborhood.

Resident Services: Inaugural Tenant Appreciation Event

Rae Ann Bender, Housing Manager/Counselor

We kicked off a new kind of tenant event on December 9 at the Bad River Convention Center. **“Home for the Holidays: A Tenant Appreciation Event”** was a Christmas-themed celebration for our tenants and their families. Over 40 of our tenant households joined us for a lasagna dinner, educational bingo, and raffles. Youth who attended had their own fun on our craft side which included a Christmas photo booth, letters to Santa, ornament making, a coloring contest, bean bag toss, games, and kids bingo.

This event was a test-run for stimulating a more positive type of interaction between the Housing Authority and its tenants. Based on the success of the event, we will be holding quarterly events like this for tenants and their families.

Next tenant education event will be held on March 16, 2016.



Above: Many families attended our tenant event.

From left: Ugly Sweater Contest winners; holiday photo booth; kids crafts



Maintenance Tips with Tim: Benefits of an Air Exchanger

If you have allergies or respiratory problems, you know the importance of fresh outdoor air. Being in an air-tight home or office can cause some problems for people with these health issues. Long Wisconsin winters do not make it easier. According to the EPA, homes can be more seriously polluted than even the most industrial cities. With some people spending approximately 90% of their time indoors, they are more susceptible to the effects of indoor air pollution. Proper ventilation with an air exchanger could help.

Air Exchange Ventilator (AEV) Benefits

- Reduces excess humidity which can cause mold, mildew and deterioration to your home
- Reduces dangerous pollutant fumes or gases
- Removes particles like dust and dander
- Helps reduce heating and cooling costs for highly insulated homes
- Removes “stuffiness” and help freshen up the home

Tips for Use

Air exchangers should be turned on at the beginning of the heating season and left on until the heating season is over. Exchangers have a washable filter which needs to be cleaned. Units are controlled by a humidistat. Your humidistat should be set between 35-55 percent relative humidity. Units are normally installed in your mechanical room. If you need more information or if you need to know if your home has an air exchanger, please call Maintenance at the Housing Authority Office.

Moisture in Homes without Air Exchangers

If your home does not have an air exchanger, it is more important to remove excess moisture by using your bath and kitchen fans on a regular basis.



*Tim Brown,
Project Manager*



Above: how an air exchanger works

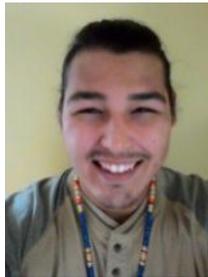
Youth Services Revitalized: New Faces, New Programs at Birch Hill Community House



Hello! My name is **Brad Bigboy**. I am the new Birch Hill Community House Coordinator. I was born and raised in Bad River, graduated from Ashland High School and started my work with the youth of Bad River. It truly is my passion and I look forward to working with the youth of our community.

Boozhoo! Minwaanimo*d* indizhinikaaz. Ma'iingan indoodem. Oma*a* indoonjibaa. Mashkiiziibiing Izhinkaade ishkonigan wenjibayaan.

Boozhoo! I'm **Joseph Cadotte**. I was born and raised on the Bad River Indian Reservation. I'm the new assistant at the Birch Hill Community House. I'm currently taking time off of college and working with the youth in efforts of being a positive influence in the community. During the summer, I'm the Lead Instructor of Bad River Youth Outdoors.



Hello, my name is **Elle Abeles-Allison** and I'm from Washburn, WI. I am a VISTA. I recently started my position as the Youth Development Coordinator for the Birch Hill Community House. I will be doing research for the community house to develop a long-term plan and a way to evaluate the impact Birch Hill Community House has on kids who attend it's activities.

Hours
3:45-7:30 pm
Monday-Friday

Occasional
Saturday events.

Check monthly
calendars.

BHCH Phone Number: 715-685-0556



At-A-Glance Birch Hill Community House

The Birch Hill Community House is a safe, fun place for youth to attend on a nightly basis. We offer:

- Tutoring/help with homework, upon request
- Evening meal
- Outdoor activities to promote physical fitness
- Art & crafts
- Games....and more!

Additionally, we collaborate with the Healthy Lifestyles Program to offer kids at BHCH the opportunity to participate in **Drum/Dance Practice** on Tuesday nights at the Community Center. Twice per month, we stay for **Family Movie Night** following Drum/Dance Practice. Every Thursday, we offer a **cooking class** with Joy Schelble from UW-Extension and Mary Jo Wolf from Nutrition Outreach. The class aims at familiarizing youth with traditional foods used by the Anishinaabeg and demonstrating ways to use those ingredients in cooking. Friday nights we participate in the AODA Program's **Game Night** at the Health & Wellness Center. Programming is evolving, so if you have input please contact us. Watch for our monthly calendars, which lists all activities for the month.

Upcoming Special Events:

January 22: Ice Fishing/Safety event

Where: Bad River Highway Boat Landing area

Who: For youth ages 9 and up

What: Youth will learn ice safety and the basic techniques of ice fishing. A bag lunch will be provided.
Weather permitting.

January 24: Wewe Bindigewin Ceremony

Where: Birch Hill Community House

Who: Open to the public

What: This is a ceremony for our people to create a prayer bundle, or medicine bundle, that we use to pray with in the winter months. The second part of the ceremony is the casting of the bundles into the lake. This ceremony signifies letting go, or casting out, of all the negative energy we carry and in return hoping for positive energy. **Please come and bring some tobacco and a gift for those Elders that are helping us with this ceremony.** Of course this isn't a requirement to participate in the ceremony, but it shows respect for the work they are doing. A meal will be served.

January 30: All-Day Trapping Event

Where: TBD

Who: Youth of the Birch Hill Community House

What: Youth that attend the event will learn how to set traps, animal identification, and how to clean animals. A meal will be served.



Home Owner & Private Rehab: Homebuyer Preparation

Deb Morrissey, Assistant Director

Buying a home can be both exciting and challenging. It is a serious commitment that requires planning, a big investment of time, energy and money.

There are many good reasons for buying a home. To determine if you are in a good position to buy a house, ask yourself the following questions:



- Am I sure I want to buy a house?
- Do I have steady income and stable employment?
- Do I plan to stay in the same location for the next couple of years?
- Have I created a budget so I know how much more I can afford to pay for housing?
- Do I have an established credit record?
- If required, do I have enough money for a down payment and closing costs?
- Have I been prequalified by a lender so I know how much I can borrow based on my income and existing debt?
- Is my debt low enough that it will not limit my ability to qualify for a mortgage?

If you can answer yes to all of these questions, you may be well on your way to owning your own home. If not, you need to prepare yourself for home ownership.

Before meeting with a lender it is recommended that you prepare for the process by attending a homebuyer class or counseling session. Understand what it takes to qualify for a loan and the different types of loans. With a certified homebuyer education course certificate, you can qualify for loan products and incentives. **Watch for upcoming homebuyer classes in your area and through Bad River Housing Authority.**

Upcoming Events

Date	Time	Event	Who	Where
01/12	4:30 pm	Bad River Housing Board Meeting	Public	Casino
01/22	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Youth Ice Fishing/Safety Event	Youth ages 9+	BR Hwy Boat Landing area
01/24	5:00 pm-completion	Wewe Bindigewin Ceremony	Public	BHCH
01/26	4:30 pm-6:30 pm	Quarterly Listening Session "Housing & Park Development"	Public	Casino
01/30	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Youth Trapping Event	BHCH Youth	TBD
02/09	4:30 pm	Bad River Housing Board Meeting	Public	Casino
03/08	4:30 pm	Bad River Housing Board Meeting	Public	Casino
03/16	5:00 pm-7:30 pm	Spring Tenant Ed Bingo Event	Tenants	Casino



NO loose garbage in trash containers. All trash must be bagged. Garbage will not be picked up unless properly stickered and/or bagged!



AFTER HOURS MAINTENANCE CALLS – The Maintenance Department has up to 2 hours to respond to a call after hours. Please be patient.



**BAD RIVER HOUSING
AUTHORITY**

Bad River Housing Authority
75860 US Hwy 2
P.O. Box 57
Odanah, WI 54861

Phone: 715-682-2271

Fax: 715-682-6818

EMERGENCY: 715-746-1994

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

BRHA Closures/Holidays

1/01/16: New Year's Day

1/14/16: In-Service (8-12)

1/18/16: MLK Day

2/15/16: President's Day

3/25/16: Good Friday (12-4)

3/28/16: Easter Monday

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Emergency After-Hours 715-746-1994

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-MISSION STATEMENT-

(Re-draft)

The mission of the Bad River Housing Authority is to develop, operate, and maintain affordable housing, and to assist Bad River tribal residents in becoming self-sufficient through workforce development opportunities, training, and supportive services.

-VISION STATEMENT-

(Draft)

The vision of the Bad River Housing Authority is to enhance the quality of life of the Bad River community by being a positive, professional catalyst in creating neighborhoods that are safe, affordable, and dynamic places to live, work, and play on the Bad River reservation.

Visit us online at:

<http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/tribal-operations/housing-a-reality/housing-authority>