

# Northwest Arctic aggressive on housing

**T**he Northwest Inupiat Housing Authority, formerly NANA Housing, is very active in providing many types of housing in the Northwest Arctic Borough. Jason Jessup, NHA's executive director, and Bruce Kovarik, program coordinator, have been very active in securing funding to build homes and apartment units in the region. Apartment complexes in bush Alaska are a new concept but Jessup is convinced the concept is not only commercially feasible, but socially acceptable.

1993 has been a year of planning and hard work that is paying off. NHA is scheduled to start construction on 20 apartment units in Kotzebue and another 20 units in Selawik in mid September. The Kotzebue apartments will be split in to ten units of low income housing and ten units for elders. The Selawik project states all 20 units for income eligible recipients. All the new units will have running water and sewer, a luxury in most of the villages outside Kotzebue.

The 1994 construction season will also be a busy one. NHA has funding to build new homes throughout the region, including 25 homes in Kotzebue, 20 in Selawik, 14 in Buckland, and five in Kobuk. All 64 homes will meet Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's energy efficiency standards and will be connected to water and sewer.

The housing authority's five-year comprehensive plan for modernizing existing homes has been approved. This \$7 million plan is a partnership with the state to repair design and construction deficiencies in existing homes and to provide long-needed water and waste storage systems. ■

*As reported by NHA's Kotzebue branch manager Joe Everhart.*