

FEMA's Gridley Camp Fire community, located at the Gridley Industrial Park.
PHOTO COURTESY OF FEMA

as the agency winds things down, it will start charging rent as of June 1.

The rent rates are set according to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development fair market value, but these prices are not necessarily affordable. According to data for Butte County in 2021, prices range from roughly \$900 for one-bedroom to \$2,064 for four bedrooms. Residents can appeal by providing documentation that they do not have the financial ability to pay, but they will continue to accrue rent until the appeal is processed.

Franklyn's proposed rent—\$894 a month—poses a financial hardship, she said. She's worried, telling the CN&R she has nowhere to turn for help.

Though Franklyn was a homeowner, she was uninsured and her property in Concow poses construction challenges. She's tried to secure an RV, but every lead has fallen through.

"I'm tired. All I want to do is go home," she said. "I'm thankful for everything I've got, but I'm one who is slipping through the cracks."

Lynne Spencer, who has been assisting Camp Fire survivors at the Butte Wildfires Distribution Center in downtown Gridley

Dianna Franklyn says the rent that FEMA will begin charging her next month is a financial hardship and that she feels helpless about her next steps.

PHOTO BY ASHIAH SCHARAGA



since November 2018, has heard countless stories from survivors in the same position. Many have told her that they will be living in their cars once the FEMA community closes.

"You can just feel their anguish," she said. "[People] say, 'It's been two years, [that] they should be all settled.' But, the thing is, we've never had a fire like this before. We've never had so much loss."

Significant barriers

FEMA spokesman Robert Barker said that from the time survivors enter their temporary housing units, the federal agency requires them to work with a case manager and show that they are making progress toward securing permanent housing in order to stay.

"FEMA continues to work closely with [the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services], local officials and volunteers to help the remaining families find a permanent housing solution. Disaster case managers are also working one-on-one with these families to help connect them to available resources and assist in executing their personalized disaster recovery plan," he wrote via email.

The federal agency originally planned to shut down all Camp Fire housing locations this month. However, Shelby Boston, director of the Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services, advocated for an extension. FEMA granted the county four additional months and "has been very clear—that's it," she told the CN&R.

NEWSLINES CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

MAY IS LYME AWARENESS MONTH

BE TICK SMART!

- **Spray Boots & Pants with Permethrin.**
- **Use Deet containing repellent on exposed skin.**
- **Tuck pants in socks & shirt in your pants.**
- **When you get home: Put all your clothes in a hot dryer for 10 minutes to kill ticks.**
- **Shower within 2 hours and do a thorough tick check including your hair, when you get home.**
- **Apply monthly tick & flea protection to pets.**
- **If you find a tick - remove with tweezers by pulling it straight out.**
- **Send tick to [tickcheck.com](https://www.tickcheck.com) for analysis for the Lyme bacteria.**

TheLymeCenter.org



Help Line: 530.877.6666

Monthly Support Group Meeting
Every Third Monday 5:30pm

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