



Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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****MEDIA ADVISORY**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY****

MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE HOSTS GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR FIRST TRIBAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Sunday, September 15th at 1 pm on Meetinghouse Road in Mashpee

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Housing Commission and Department will host a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate an historic moment in the Tribe's history - the beginning phase of construction on the **first** housing units to be built for Tribal members. The development, situated on a 45-acre parcel of land on Meetinghouse Road in Mashpee, will provide safe affordable housing to eligible tribal members and other Native Americans who reside in the Tribe's service area. ***The ceremony will be followed by a gathering at the Old Indian Meeting House (410 Meetinghouse Road, Mashpee)***

WHEN: Sunday, September 15, 2013
1:00 p.m.

WHERE: 184 Meetinghouse Road - construction site
Mashpee, MA

WHO: **Cedric Cromwell**, Chairman, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Coreen Moore, Chairwoman, Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Commission
Marie Stone, Tribal Council Secretary, Housing Department Liaison
Earl "Guy" Cash, Jr., Medicine Man, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

MWT Housing Commission:

Coreen Moore, Chairwoman
Michelle Fernandes, Secretary
Barbara Harris, Commissioner
Carol Lopez, Commissioner
Doug Charron, Commissioner
Joan Avant-Tavares, Commissioner

MWT Housing Department:

Leon Jacobs – Interim Housing Director
Valerie Molokwu – Rehabilitation and Weatherization Specialist
Danita Payne – Interim Manager of Housing Services
Brenda Fernandes – Department Administrative Assistant

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About the Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department:

The Mission of the Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department is to provide housing assistance and opportunities specific to the needs of Native Americans living within the Wampanoag Community by offering eligible members the choice to remain in existing housing, or return to quality housing provided on ancestral lands, a place appointed to the Tribe by the creator, and to encourage self determination and economic independence for all Native Americans.

Alice Lopez opened the doors of the Wampanoag Housing Program in January 2003. This was the first time the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe offered tribal members assistance with their housing needs. The decision to offer a program to tribal members came about after Alice had worked for Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands (CACCI) for ten years as a Housing Advocate, Case Manager, Case Facilitator, and then finally as a Director of a Scattered Site Shelter Program. Through her work with CACCI, she realized the huge need for housing services for Tribal members.

In September 2007, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe was funded with their first Indian Housing Block Grant. The Housing Program then became known as the Housing Department. Today, the Wampanoag Housing Department is assisting tribal members with a large variety of housing needs. The Housing Department is overseen by a 7-person member Board of Housing Commissioners, charged with meeting the long-term goal of developing affordable housing and programs to tribal members.

About the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe:

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, known as the People of the First Light, has inhabited present day Massachusetts for more than 12,000 years. After an arduous 30+ year process, the Mashpee Wampanoag were re-acknowledged as a federally-recognized tribe in 2007 and retain full tribal sovereignty rights. There are approximately 2,600 enrolled citizens of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

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