



# Nashauonk Mittark™



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April 2016

DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY

## Chairman's Column



Dear Tribal Family,

The tie that binds us all is our shared history and culture. It's the essence of our identity - who and what we are as a people.

While much of the news and talk lately, even amongst Tribal Citizens, has been about First Light Resort & Casino, we should never lose sight of the fact that preserving the ancient traditions and way of life of those who came before us holds far more value than all the poker chips in the world.

Our songs and sage; drumming and dancing; the vocalization of our language; the education of our youth; caring for our Elders; the preservation of our natural resources; sharing Good Medicine are each of infinite value.

But, let's keep it real. In order to carve out a space in this physical, material, and modern world and thrive as a people requires resources, infrastructure and investment.

And that is why First Light Resort & Casino is so important to our futures. It will serve as an economic engine to, not only fully fund our government and provide for an expansion of services and programs for our people, but to also generate seed money to grow the emerging economy of our Tribal Nation.

It took generations for us to get to where we are, and it will take at least another generation before we reach our goal of complete self-reliance. That's just the nature of reality. Nothing worth building can be built overnight.

Yet, even in this period of transition, our Tribal government - from Tribal Council to each administrative department - is providing a wide array of services and programs.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Resort & Casino Final Design Unveiled



**A**t the general membership meeting on Sunday, March 13 and at a joint press conference with Taunton city officials on the following day, Mashpee Wampanoag tribal leaders unveiled the final design and construction schedule for First Light Resort & Casino.

To the delight of tribal citizens and the standing-room only crowd in attendance at Taunton City Hall, tribal leaders said they expect to break ground in April with a portion of the casino on track to open for business by

the summer of 2017.

"Since our lands in Taunton and Mashpee were declared a reservation by the U.S. Department of Interior earlier this year, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Gaming Authority has been working hard to finalize the design plans on what will be a first-class resort destination," Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell said.

"This project will not only help sustain our Tribe on the land our ancestors have lived on for the past 12,000 years, it will also

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Please Help Little Bryson: A Mother's Plea

When you look at the photo of little Bryson, decked out in his sweatshirt, you can't help but see a vibrant energy and a carefree wonder for life that only our youth poses. What you don't see is a battle taking place inside his body that no child should have to fight. Bryson has been diagnosed with a very rare type of hyper IGM, which essentially means he has no white blood cells. Bryson is now in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant.

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Events Calendar

### New Events

**April 2 - 10:00 a.m. to Noon**  
Residential Lease Workshop, MWTCGC

**April 5 - 11:00 a.m.**  
First Light Resort & Casino  
Groundbreaking, 61R Steven's Street,  
Taunton, MA

**April 9 - 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
Job Fair, MWTCGC

**April 9 & 10**  
Peacemakers Session, MWTCGC

**April 10 - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
General Body Meeting & Budget Vote,  
MWTCGC

**April 21 - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**  
CCDF Public Meeting, MWTCGC

**April 22 - 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.**  
Youth Ball, Navigator in Falmouth

**May 14 - 11:00 a.m.**  
Wampanoag New Year Celebration, Old  
Indian Meeting House

### Weekly Events

**Mondays - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**  
Youth Boys Basketball, MWTCGC

**Mondays - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
Craft Night, MWTCGC

**Tuesdays - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**  
Elders Lunch & Learn, MWTCGC

**Tuesdays - 5:30 p.m.**  
Enrollment Committee, MWTCGC

**Tuesdays - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
Coed Volleyball, MWTCGC

**Wednesdays - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**  
& 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Tribal Health Yoga with Virginia and  
Kimma, MWTCGC

**Thursdays - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**  
Elders Lunch & Learn, MWTCGC

**NEW Thursdays - 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
Youth Dance & Drum Class, MWTCGC

**Fridays - 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**  
Pre School Language Hour, MWTCGC

**Fridays - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**  
Tribal Health Zumba with Shirley,  
MWTCGC

**Sundays - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**  
Tribal Health Zumba with Shirley,  
MWTCGC

## A Few Minutes Could Save His Life *(continued)*

Unfortunately, Bryson's Native American heritage makes his search for a match extremely challenging. Patients are most likely to match someone of their own race or ethnicity, but Native American patients have less than a 1% chance of finding a matching donor. That's why Bryson's mother, Marcy Hendricks, is asking citizens of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and all Native Americans to register now as a donor.

"Our little warrior, Bryson, is the happiest, most loving child you could ever meet and he needs your help," said Marcy over a facebook post that she hopes will spread virally throughout Indian Nation. "Every child deserves to live and grow. God bless you and your family and hold your children tight because they are gifts from the Creator."

Without a successful bone marrow transplant in the very near future Bryson will



develop Leukemia. What you can do now is visit [www.bethematch.org](http://www.bethematch.org) and click on "Support the Cause" and sign up to host a donor drive. Bryson deserves a chance to grow and experience a full and rewarding life. Register today as a donor and to host a donor drive.

## Martha Pearson Donates Photo to Archives



Top (left to right): Kim Frye, Crystal Perry, Malcolm Tobey, Marcella Fuery, Wampsi-kuk Mills. Bottom (Left to Right): George Maddox, Martha Pearson, Matilda, Francine Reed. Circa 2010. In memory of George Maddox, Crystal Perry and Malcolm Tobey.

**Submitting Material to the Archives:** If you would like to donate photographs or other material for long-term preservation, please contact Stephen Curley at (508) 477-0208 x196 or at [stephen.curley@mw-tribe.com](mailto:stephen.curley@mw-tribe.com).

## Youth Ball to be Held on April 22



The Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Council are pleased to announce the annual Youth Ball will be held on Friday, April 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Navigator in Falmouth.

The theme for this year's ball is Casino Royale. Tickets for the event are \$15 if purchased in advance at the Community and Government Center and \$20 if purchased at the door.

## Do You Have News to Share in the Mittark?

Do you have Tribal news to share? We want to hear from you. All Tribal Members are encouraged to submit news to be included in the Nashauonk Mittark. Please contact Trish Keliinui at [trish.keliinui@mwtribe.com](mailto:trish.keliinui@mwtribe.com).

## Tribal Athletes Play Basketball in Ho-Chunk Nation

**A**round the same time NCAA Division 1 basketball players and Ho-Chunk natives Bronson Koenig and Will Decorah were making national news in the March men's basketball tournament, a group of young Mashpee men were making shots at a basketball tournament hosted by the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Mashpee Wampanoag's Nakia Hendricks, Cody Hendricks and Steven Gonsalves took the trip to Wisconsin to participate in the Ho-Chunk Nation March Madness 2016 basketball tournament held March 11 through 13. The young men competed against 15 other teams for over \$20,000 in cash prizes. Competition included a double elimination tournament along with a three-point and slam dunk contest.

Nakia, Cody and Steven were able to play in the tournament after catching the eye of Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Education Coordinator and Ho-Chunk Native Cameron Greendeer. Cameron recruited them to play on a team he formed many years ago called Oak Park. The team is predominantly made up of Ho-Chunk players, but they made room on the roster for the Mashpee players.

Following the tournament, Cameron was pleased with the decision to add the young men onto the team. "We look for certain types of athletes to come play with us, and I believe Steven, Nakia and Cody had the type of personality and skill to assist with our team," said Cameron. "The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe was represented very well by these young gentlemen. This experience exposed them to a world outside of the Cape, and helped to build their confidence to do anything they want in life."



## Chairman's Column *(continued)*

It's reflected in the annual budget proposal being presented this month.

The budget shows a commitment to housing, healthcare, education, health and human services, Elder and youth services, as well as our food pantry. But, it also bears repeating: to deliver these important services to our Tribal Community requires a highly qualified staff, which is why the bulk of our budget - as is the case with any government budget - you'll find going towards salaries, which in turn are sustaining tribal families.

As I've noted elsewhere, we are blessed to have a pool of home-grown talent to fill most of these positions. Even as we look for ways to train and develop even more Tribal Citizens toward professional advancement, we are already one of the largest employers on Cape Cod. Currently, our Tribal government employs more than 100 people with 93% of those employees being Tribal Citizens. That is self-determination & self-reliance in action.

But we are far from done. We are rapidly moving forward on First Light Resort & Casino so we can begin to generate revenue to pay our debts and re-invest in our people without the aid of outside sources. If we are going to build our own housing and schools; if we are going to take

better care of our Elders; if we are going to safeguard our language and history; if we are going to create Tribal businesses and preserve the natural resources our Creator has bestowed upon us; we will need the resources to do it.

It is for this reason that I am so excited to break ground on our first-class destination resort casino on our land in Taunton. I hope to see everyone who reads this column there as we initiate the largest economic development project in the modern history of our Tribe.

The ground-breaking ceremony on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in Taunton ushers us into this new era where, instead of just talking about our dreams, we begin to build them and make them a reality.

I ask each of you to step up and be a part of the history we are making. Our children, and our children's children, will one day look back with a sense of pride at the opportunities before them, secure in their place in the world. That is our vision and together we will get there - where we are supposed to be!

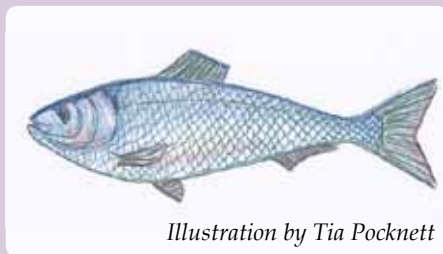
Kutâputunumuw,

Cedric Cromwell  
Qaqeemashq (*Running Bear*)

## Honoring Our Herring

Please join the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project and Mashpee Indian Museum for family fun, activities, singing, dancing, fishing, and more at the Honoring Our Herring event. The event will be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum on Wednesday, April 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This event is free and open to all Wampanoag youth and families. For more information contact Kitty Hendricks at (508) 477-9339 or send her an email at [ghendricks@mwtribe.com](mailto:ghendricks@mwtribe.com).



*Illustration by Tia Pocknett*

## New Story Series at the Museum

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum will be launching a new story series for preschoolers between the ages of three and five on Thursday, April 14. The monthly event "Stories from the Weety8" will introduce all children - native and non native - to living stories from Wampanoag communities and other native cultures. The series will be held the second Thursday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. in the weety8 located on the Museum property.

The program is designed to immerse preschoolers in the sounds of traditional native culture and stories that have been passed down through the generations. In addition to stories, the monthly event will include songs and drumming using traditional percussion instruments. There is a \$4 fee and guardians must accompany their children.

Space is limited and reservations are strongly suggested. To reserve space or learn more, contact Cultural Program Director Kitty Hendricks at (508) 477-9339 or email [ghendricks@mwtribe.com](mailto:ghendricks@mwtribe.com).

## Resort & Casino on the Horizon *(continued)*

help revitalize the regional economy and provide up to \$2 billion dollars in revenues for the Commonwealth," Cromwell said.

Taunton Mayor Thomas Hoyer lauded the final design and ensuing development as a major economic jolt for a city on the rise.

"When you consider the 1,000 construction jobs and 2,600 permanent jobs this will create, as well as the millions of dollars in additional revenues it will provide, this is a watershed moment for our city. The economic multiplier effects are enormous," Hoyer said.

ever, was the unveiling of the final design for First Light Resort & Casino, which included details on design enhancements that have been made since the project was first conceptualized in 2012. Paul Steelman, chief executive officer of Steelman Partners, led the audience through a video of renderings of the interior and exterior of the buildings. The renderings included gold-tinted statues, indoor pools, gaming rooms, hotel rooms, a wetu that graces the entrance to the casino and other aspects of the proposed destination resort casino.



"First Light Resort & Casino will help put Taunton back on the map as a magnificent city to visit, and that's something we can all get behind," Hoyer said, noting the close partnership city officials have forged with tribal leaders and the overwhelming city-wide referendum vote in support of the project.

After Chairman Cromwell and Mayor Hoyer spoke, the construction management team was introduced - Dimeo Construction Company, The Penta Building Group, and Talako Construction, LLC. Recognized leaders in the construction of world-class gaming and entertainment venues, the three firms have formed a joint venture and will oversee the demolition and site-prep work.

The highlight of the two events, how-

Once construction is complete, First Light Resort & Casino will include:

- 3,000 slot machines
- 150 table games
- 40 poker tables
- Fine dining restaurants; food court with international buffet; and 24-hour cafe
- Three 15-story, 300-room luxury hotels
- Lounge and performance stage
- Indoor pool
- 9 retail stores
- 31,000 square-foot multi-purpose function room
- 5 meeting rooms
- Spa and water park

Ground breaking on the Mashpee Wampanoag's \$500 million First Light Casino in Taunton is scheduled for April 5. Construction will take place in four phases. The first phase, slated to debut next summer, will include the casino, restaurants, entertainment and retail shops. The proposed hotels, a parking garage and water park will be built out through 2022.

## Tribe Hosts MA Gaming Commission



A day after officially announcing plans to open a destination resort casino in the summer of 2017 the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe hosted the Massachusetts Gaming Commission's public meeting on Tuesday, March 15. During the meeting tribal leaders announced First Light Resort & Casino will be run by Resorts World Casino owned by Genting Group, one of the world's largest casino operators.

"Genting has never stopped believing in our goal," said Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Cedric Cromwell during the meeting.

While Genting's financial backing of the project has been public knowledge, its role in operations had not been defined up to this point. Kevin C. Jones, president of Genting Massachusetts, said during the nearly four hour long meeting that Genting would eventually turn over management of the casino to the Tribe.

"Genting will operate the tribal casino on behalf of the Tribe," said Jones. "We will operate the casino while helping to build up the capacity of the tribe to operate it themselves. Our role is to work ourselves out of a job on behalf of the Tribe."

The owners and operators of more than 50 casinos worldwide, including some of the world's largest, Genting hosts more than 60 million casino customers a year and employs more than 50,000 people.

The announcement comes as the Massachusetts Gaming Commission weighs whether the Mashpee tribe will have exclusive rights to run a resort casino in Southeastern Massachusetts, or whether a competing plan in Brockton can move forward.

To that point, Chairman Cromwell made it very clear from his opening remarks and through out the meeting that the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe "have land in trust. A fact that will not change."

## Economic Development Takes First Steps

Every journey starts with a first step. For the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, it's journey towards a strong, healthy native economy took its first step on Friday March 18 and Saturday March 19 at the Tribe's Economic Development Community Input Session. Over the two-day session tribal citizens, entrepreneurs and local community leaders came together to discuss the elements needed to develop an economic development plan...the foundation for economic growth.

Led by Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Senior Planner Danielle Hill and Planning Associate Billie Mills, the community input session invited the community - both tribal and non tribal - to participate in roundtable discussions, break out sessions, and panel discussions. Other facilitators at the session included United South & Eastern Tribes (USET) Development Director Brandon Stephens, Cape Cod Commission Chief Economic Development Officer Leslie Richardson and Mashpee Town Planner Tom Fudala.

During the second day Danielle stressed the importance of developing goals for future projects and priorities and understanding the role of an economic development plan. "The most important thing in economic development is having a government that can provide the framework for a business to prosper. To do it without stepping on the values, traditions and beliefs of the community," said Danielle. "At the end of the day that's what we need to accomplish."

A reoccurring theme throughout the weekend were forms of capital that the tribe could tap into and leverage to ensure a tribal enterprise is successful and in line with the mission, vision and goals of the Tribe. While we tend to equate capital with finances the group broadened the definition to also include political capital, social capital, human capital, cultural capital, natural capital and built capital. Each of these forms of capital resides within the Tribe and has real value when it comes to developing successful businesses.

Towards the end of the second day attendees were able to identify Mashpee's assets and outline threats to long-term sustainability of those assets. The information was then collected by Danielle and Billie and will help drive the formation of the economic development plan and prioritize future projects.



## Emergency Prep Department Graduates from National Program



*Nelson and Ann Marie with EMI graduating class.*

Recently the entire Emergency Preparedness Department - Emergency Preparedness Planner Nelson Andrews Jr. and Emergency Preparedness Outreach Coordinator Ann Marie Askew - graduated from the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) program in Emmittsburg, MD. Nelson and Ann Marie successfully completed the EMI curriculum for Emergency Management Framework for Tribal Governments.

The four-day course was developed to provide tribal emergency management/response personnel and tribal leaders with a basic understanding of emergency management principles and their role in leading and directing their tribes in developing and implementing comprehensive emergency management systems. Specific topics include identification and analysis

of hazards, developing an emergency operations plan and other planning, assuring readiness through training and exercises, forming partnerships in the public and private sector, and upgrading and sustaining emergency management capabilities.

EMI is the emergency management community's flagship training institution, and provides training to federal, state, local, tribal, volunteer, public, and private sector officials to strengthen emergency management core competencies for professional, career-long training. EMI trains more than 2 million students annually.



## Neekun Summer Day Program Registration

The Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Program Department is pleased to announce registration for Neekun Summer Program (formerly Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Day Program (MWYDP) opens Friday, April 22 and closes Friday, June 3. This is a full day summer program for youth ages 5-12. All youth must be 5 before the first day of program.

The purpose of this program is to provide a safe place for children that will enrich their lives culturally, socially, and academically. MWYDP will achieve this by implementing three focus areas which include culture, healthy lifestyles, and academic retention.

Age: 5-12  
Monday - Friday  
August 1<sup>st</sup>-August 26<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Mashpee Wampanoag Community and Government Center  
35 Slots  
\$80 for four week program

## Mashpee Beats Carcieri - by Judith Shapiro

**S**eptember 18, 2015 is a day the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will long remember: when Kevin Washburn, the assistant secretary for Indian affairs, announced a determination to accept 321 acres in trust for the tribe.

The determination was not made lightly. Much of the 137-page Record of Decision is devoted to a detailed explanation of the assistant secretary's analysis and conclusion that Mashpee is eligible, under the Indian Reorganization Act (the IRA), to have land held in that status. Mashpee's accomplishment, in the face of recent obstacles to trust applications, is firmly rooted in its ancestors, whose steadfast attachment to their homeland created a record satisfying a relatively obscure provision of the IRA.

Securing new trust land has never been easy for Indian tribes. Establishing trust land for gaming is much harder, particularly within the narrow constraints imposed by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) which, with few exceptions, does not permit gaming on lands acquired in trust after the law's 1988 enactment.

But now, even the IGRA limitations seem minor compared to the nearly impenetrable roadblock created by the Supreme Court's decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar*, 555 U.S. 379 (2009). The *Carcieri* court invented a new and repressive interpretation of the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act, finding that the secretary's authority to accept lands in trust for tribes "recognized and now under federal jurisdiction" was limited to tribes "under federal jurisdiction" as of June 18, 1934, the date the IRA was enacted.

The direct loss in *Carcieri* was borne by the Narragansett tribe, whose plans for elder housing were crushed; but it soon became clear that all of Indian trust land acquisition was in jeopardy.

The Department of the Interior has had to reevaluate its trust acquisition authority, and to complete such analysis as a threshold for all trust applications. Congress and the courts have been attempting to address the issue for nearly seven years.

Congressional efforts have not succeeded, and have been repeatedly obstructed by interests seeking to limit expansion of Indian gaming, either entirely or in specific market areas. In addition, there will always be challenges to efforts to by the federal government to enhance tribal sovereignty. Extensive inter-tribal support for a congressional "Carcieri fix" has been undercut by pockets of opposition, tribal and otherwise, and various legislative efforts have languished.

The *Carcieri* decision has fueled attacks in a broad range of cases. Tribes have a



wide range of traditional enemies. The tribes most directly targeted by *Carcieri*-based arguments are those that have achieved federal acknowledgment only after 1934. In part, these attacks are based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the *Carcieri* decision:

The Supreme Court did not hold that the IRA required a tribe to be "recognized" as of 1934, rather it required that a "recognized" tribe, as a separate matter, be "under federal jurisdiction" as of 1934, so as to comply with the court's interpretation of the IRA language.

Thus, the Interior Department has, over the past several years, undertaken an exacting exercise to determine whether an applicant tribe had demonstrated it was "under federal jurisdiction."

The department's first such analysis, for the Cowlitz tribe (acknowledged in 2002), determined that the tribe had met its burden, demonstrating Cowlitz's historical interaction with the federal government in the decades from 19th century treaty negotiations and leading up to the magic 1934 date. Thereafter, the Interior solicitor issued a rare legal opinion detailing a standard for determining existence of "federal jurisdiction" that closely tracked the Cowlitz analysis.

That opinion strengthened the Cowlitz decision, but focused on evidence specific to Cowlitz and other Western tribes, making it perhaps less applicable to other regions. (The Cowlitz ruling has withstood judicial review, although an appeal is pending.) The United States accepted the Cowlitz tribe's land into trust status in March 2015 and declared Cowlitz's reservation status last November.

Along the East Coast, a number of tribes have achieved federal recognition

through the Interior Department's acknowledgement process. These tribes had faced colonization early, entered into treaties with European powers, and thereafter were extensively "administered" by colonial and state governments, despite the 1789 constitutional centralization of Indian affairs power in the then-new federal government. Mustering evidence of federal jurisdiction is different for Eastern tribes, and more difficult than for Western tribes having a shorter period of dominating settlement.

The Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, having dealt with colonizing powers for more than 150 years before the birth of the republic, has a rich history of resistance to displacement. The tribal community benefited from their ancestors' use of foreign land laws to their own advantage, staying in place on lands their leaders had deeded to the community forever, along with all the necessary hunting and subsistence rights—in effect, a self-created reservation. That reservation became the first step to building a future.

The IRA grants the secretary authority to accept trust land for two categories of tribal communities in addition to those under federal jurisdiction in 1934. The second and third categories contemplate building trust land bases for half-blood Indian communities, and for Indians of a tribe living on a reservation in 1934. Mashpee's history reflects an ancient and continuing reservation community still very much in place in 1934. That history is the foundation for the September decision to accept trust title for Mashpee lands, and for the creation of a federal Mashpee reservation.

In establishing its eligibility, Mashpee was fortunate. Historic leaders of the Mashpee Wampanoag had the foresight to create permanent deeds from themselves to the tribal people and to record those deeds among the others establishing land rights in the Plymouth colony. Unlike most recorded deeds of the period, these protected, rather than terminated, tribal rights. Mashpee was fortunate to have strong, tenacious ancestors who continued to occupy traditional homelands in traditional ways despite centuries of pressure from settlers.

They did so despite overbearing overseers, infringing neighbors, and outright hostility from their neighbors. Those lands provided sanctuary for other displaced Wampanoag people. The lands and waters permitted them to live and prosper in their own, traditional ways.

Mashpee land tenure was acknowledged by the English Crown and its colonial government, and after the Revolution, by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts—for a time.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Beating Carcieri (continued)

When Massachusetts attempted to break up the community by allotting, taxing and selling off tracts of Mashpee land, the people stayed anyway. And stayed. Mashpee's long and detailed history of a people inseparable from their land, and a self-governing tribal entity that used the town government structure to serve and protect its people, supported the 2015 determination that the tribe had demonstrated its eligibility under the IRA.

Mashpee now has land in trust. The tribe can move on with its plans for tribal housing, cultural and resource protection, and much needed economic development. The creation of its federal reservation has historic significance, both in reversing the centuries of land loss and in highlighting a path that other tribes might use to restore their tribal land bases.

It is fitting that the tribe whose reservation was allotted before federal policy of breaking up reservations was established, should benefit from the IRA, whose stated goal was to restore some of the tribal lands lost through allotment. There may be other tribes whose history can support this approach.

With only a year left in the Obama administration, the Interior Department has a stated goal of acquiring 500,000 acres of new trust land; to date it has achieved about 300,000 acres toward that goal. We are fortunate to have a government team that takes its trust responsibility seriously, bypassing Carcieri on a path to secure tribal homelands.

## Nitana Hicks Greendeer Tapped as New Education Director

It is with much enthusiasm that Nitana Hicks Greendeer begins work as the new Education Director. Throughout her own education and career, her vision has always been a quality education for our Wampanoag youth, as well as all Native youth. In 2014, Nitana earned her PhD in Education at Boston College where she focused heavily on culturally based and culturally relevant education in the area of curriculum and instruction.

In her past work experience Nitana worked to train in-practice teachers in mainstream schools and in schools who teach Wampanoag students about Wampanoag history, cultural sensitivity and understanding. She also taught pre-service teachers about teaching and reaching a diverse student populations.

She has advocated for, tutored and mentored Wampanoag and other Native youth. She has lived and learned our culture and language, which she has worked hard to pass on to young Wampanoag people, especially youth, through language classes and camps, tribal youth programming, and personal relationships.

Nitana has been a member of the Education Committee for the past 6 years, helping students through creating policies, reading scholarship applications and developing a strategic plan. She has also helped



steer the education department through the work of her doctoral dissertation research: "Nuweetanuhkôshânushshômun numukayusunônak We are working together for our youth: Securing educational success for Mashpee Wampanoag youth through community collaboration." This project brought together Mashpee Wampanoag community members to talk about the issues our youth face in their education and to set forth a strategy to mitigate some of the problems they face.

Nitana is looking forward to working with our tribe's students and can be reached at the MWT Community and Government Center at 508-477-0208 ext. 149 or at [Nitana.greendeer@mwtribe.com](mailto:Nitana.greendeer@mwtribe.com).

## Wampanoag New Year Celebration

The Old Indian Meeting House Committee wishes to invite Tribal citizens and guest to the annual Wampanoag New Year Celebration to be held at the Old Indian Meeting House at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 14, 2016. Traditional regalia requested. Following the service everyone is invited to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center for drumming and singing, pot-luck luncheon, and Native crafts.



## NEEKUN (Our House) After School Program and Vacation Week Program

**N**eekun is an after-school program for youth in Grades K-6 presented through a partnership between the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project and the Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Programs and Language Departments. Its purpose is to provide fun language, immersion, and enrichment activities in a safe community environment in order to support students culturally, socially, and academically.

After a successful 7-week pilot program that ran daily from January 4<sup>th</sup> through February School Vacation Week, and served 25 students total, Neekun resumed on March 15<sup>th</sup> and will run Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. through June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Slots are still available for school vacation week, April 18-22, 2016, Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visit the WLRP Programs page to download an application: [www.wlrp.org/programs.html](http://www.wlrp.org/programs.html).

The program is free of charge. Parents are asked to contribute \$5/week to support healthy snacks for the students.

In addition to cultural, athletic, and language activities, early spring Neekun programming will be focused on learning to grow traditional medicines as well as vegetables and flowers in the Youth Programs greenhouse at the Tribal Farm. Once the weather is warmer, students will work outdoors one day each week to transplant and tend their medicine and vegetable gardens.



## Housing Department Update: Here to Help

**O**ur quote for the month of April is “The ‘secret to change’ is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old but on building the new...” This timely quote reminds us that every day is an opportunity. It’s up to you to decide what it is for. We hope you have a great month from your family and friends in the Housing Department.

Asking for assistance can be the most difficult and the most important step towards improving a difficult situation. That’s why Housing Department Director Deirdre Lopes and her staff work so hard to make the office as welcoming as possible to all of their clients. It’s why the department develops monthly quotes that constantly reinforce their mission to serve the community well.

You probably remember the old adage “You’ll never know, unless you ask.” That seemingly simple step can be a daunting task, especially when your asking to be assisted with your place of being - your home. Asking for assistance is neither a weakness nor a flaw, it’s part of being human. It’s okay to ask for help from others to better your livelihood. If you have a question or need assistance please reach out to the MWT Housing Department to see how we can better assist you with your housing needs. Our doors are open and you’re always welcome.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve: Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department Staff.

Okay, so let’s jump into the numbers for this month. Services provided for the months of January and February:

Service	# Served	Dollars Spent	Balance
Rental Assistance	2 Citizens	\$2,300.00	\$35,200.00
Closing Cost Assistance	0 Citizens	\$0.00	\$25,000.00
Foreclosure Assistance	0 Citizens	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Eviction Prevention	2 Citizens	\$2,596.98	\$17,403.02
Rental Subsidy	15 Citizens	\$8,400.00	\$41,700.00
Sanitation IHS	1 Citizen	\$5,182.67	\$--

What services do you want to see from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Housing Department? Do you have comments? Questions? Suggestions? Are there specific workshops/trainings you want? Keep a lookout for a MWT Housing Need’s Assessment in the upcoming Mittark. Your input is so very important to us. Gaining feedback from the community is one of the most effective ways we can improve on the services we provide and ensure we’re providing the support needed.

Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Commission meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Tribal Council Chambers at the Community and Government Center. Please join us!

## Dental Clinic Going Green

In an effort to streamline our records system and reduce our carbon footprint, the Dental Clinic is in the process of acquiring an electronic dental record called Dentrix, and will be shifting away from using paper patient charts.

Making the switch will create some disruptions to service while we integrate the new system and complete the trainings that go along with it. We are tentatively scheduled to only see emergency walk-in patients on May 3-6 and May 9-10. And, we will have a reduced patient load (by approximately 50%) for at least one month following this switch. We are sorry for this inconvenience to you, but are confident that this will, in the long run, improve the patient care experience and Mother Earth



February Dental Clinic Prize Winner  
Francis Fermino

## Tips on Home ownership, Rental and Homelessness

**Home ownership:** The prospect of purchasing a home raises a flurry of questions. What do you need to know? How do you prepare? Should you attend a fist time home owners’ class? These are all very important questions that need answers. According to a recent report in the Cape Cod Times, affording the region’s median single-family home price of \$343,000 would require annual wages of \$85,000. The problem is, the median household income in Barnstable County is only about \$61,000. If you’re thinking about purchasing a home give us a call and schedule your appointment to discuss what your options are.

**Rental Resources:** There are many types of assistance available for households renting or looking to rent on the lower Cape including: Affordable Rental Properties,

Market-rate Rental Properties and Section 8 Rental Vouchers.

In order to receive assistance, you will have to qualify based on a particular project or program’s criteria. Many programs have a long waitlist that extend over months and years. Applicants should be prepared to apply for all available opportunities that meet their needs. Temporary assistance may be available to households in an emergency situation. Assistance of all kinds is available to households at a range of income levels. However, you will need to contact each organization individually to determine the current opportunities or programs available in their service area. Some resources for market-rate rental properties include: Local newspapers, Craigslist, Cape Community Real Estate (CCRE) and Hous-

ing Assistance Corporation.

**Homelessness Young and Old:** HUD defines as “unsheltered” individuals residing in places not meant for habitation, including cars, parks, sidewalks or abandoned buildings. The HUD definition of homelessness doesn’t include “couch surfing”, i.e. staying with friends, family members.

Even though nearly 40 percent of unaccompanied homeless youth were going to school and almost 65 percent reported earning some sort of income, the risk of their engaging in risky behaviors including selling drugs, stealing or offering sex for money increases the longer they are homeless.

Let’s be conscious of helping our fellow brothers and sisters.



## MEMA Meets with Tribal Leadership

**T**ribal leadership along with representatives from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) attended the 5th Tribal Emergency Response Task Force (TERTF) meeting at the Tribal Community and Government Center on Thursday, February 25. During the meeting the two groups discussed how the State and the Tribe interface with one another.

Leadership from the Tribe that were in attendance included Nelson Andrews Emergency Preparedness Planner, Ann Marie Askew Tribal Emergency Preparedness Outreach Coordinator. Vice Chairwoman Jessie Baird, Executive Assistant Francis Dottin, and Treasurer Robert Hendricks along Kurt N. Schwartz, director of MEMA, Christine Packard, deputy director of MEMA, and James A. Mannion, Region II Manager of MEMA.

MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to with



*Vice Chairwoman Jessie Baird, PR & Communications Manager Trish Keliinui, Facilities Director Michael Maxim and Emergency Preparedness Planner Nelson Andrews greeting MEMA reps prior to the meeting.*

stand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters. MEMA headquarters is located in a bunker in Framingham and includes the State Emergency Operations Center. MEMA also operates three regional offices in Tewksbury, Bridgewater and Agawam. The bunker, which now serves as MEMA headquarters, was commissioned by President John F. Kennedy due to the Cold War climate of the early 1960s.

## Summer Turtle Program Enters Sixth Year

The Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project's sixth annual Summer Turtle program will be offered July 11<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup> for up to 45 tribal youth ages 5 through 13.

Applications will be available online at the WLRP Programs page beginning April 4<sup>th</sup> or at the Language Department in the Tribal Community and Government Center. Applications

must be postmarked and mailed to WLRP at P.O. Box 2241 Mashpee, MA 02649.

Summer Turtle slots will be filled on a first come first served basis, and parents will be notified as soon as applications are received. The weekly cost of the program is \$50 - or \$150 total for the 3-week program.

## Pre-Enrollment is Open for Mukayuhsak Weekuw: The Children's House

**T**he Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP), in partnership with the Montessori Academy of Cape Cod (MACC), is pleased to announce pre-enrollment for Mukayuhsak Weekuw: The Children's House, a Wôpanâak-language immersion Montessori school.

Beginning September 2016, we will have 12 preschool slots for children between the ages of 2 years 9 months and 4 years old who are members of tribal households in one of the four Wampanoag communities (Mashpee, Aquinnah, Assonet or Herring Pond) served by WLRP. The school will be open Monday through Friday. Standard hours for the school will be 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., though after school/extended day care is also an option.

To pre-enroll please contact Jenn Weston at 508-477-0208 x168 or visit [www.wlrp.org/sign-up-form.html](http://www.wlrp.org/sign-up-form.html).

For those families that are income-eligible, childcare vouchers may be available

through the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's childcare voucher program. More information about the subsidized childcare vouchers is available by contacting Marcy Hendricks at [MaHendricks@mwtribe.com](mailto:MaHendricks@mwtribe.com) or at 508-477-0208 x160.

Mukayuhsak Weekuw: The Children's House will be located at the Montessori Academy of Cape Cod located at 81 Chester Street in North Falmouth: [www.falmouth-montessori.org](http://www.falmouth-montessori.org).



## Tribal Child Care Development Fund's Teacher Trainees



Thanks to funding support from the Tribal Child Care Development Fund, directed by Marcy Hendricks, two Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP) teachers are midway through their Montessori Teacher Training Program. Siobhan Brown is presently completing her Montessori teacher certification coursework, while continuing to teach Wôpanâak language in Boston and to offer Elders Lunch and Learn classes weekly. Tia Pocknett also is completing the Montessori teacher certification course sponsored by CCDF, while simultaneously teaching weekly community language classes in Mashpee and the Preschool Language Hour.

Brown and Pocknett are attending the Montessori Academy of Teacher Training, which Hendricks partnered with last summer to develop a new early childhood teacher program offered through the Tribal Education Department beginning last October. Rosanne Amaru, who founded the Montessori Academy of Cape Cod in 1992, leads the training course. Brown, Pocknett, and Amaru will implement the Mukayuhsak Weekuw: The Children's House, a Wôpanâak-language immersion Montessori school, along with other WLRP teachers and staff.

## An Open Letter from Plymouth 400 Advisory Committee

**A**n open letter to our tribal families from Plymouth 400 Wampanoag Advisory Committee Members Linda Coombs, Aquinnah Wampanoag, and Paula Peters, Mashpee Wampanoag, actively engaged in the preservation of tribal history and dedicated to representing our story accurately and respectfully.

The 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower is coming in scarcely four years. So why should the Wampanoag care?

If what happened in Jamestown in 2007 is any indication Plymouth, America and an international audience will be engaged in a world-class commemoration of the occasion and reflecting on a story that cannot honestly be told without the inclusion of the Wampanoag perspective. For centuries we have been a footnote, marginalized or simply inaccurately portrayed in classic accounts of history. There has perhaps never been a more critical time to set the record straight.

Since 2008 Plymouth 400 Inc., the non-profit organization charged with coordinating activities, events and exhibits for 2020 has sought help from the Wampanoag community to fulfill the need for inclusion of the Wampanoag story. They made a commitment to be inclusive of our story as it pertains to the colonization of New England and the impacts it continues to have on us to this day.

Answering the call was not an easy consideration. We were torn between saying no, and leaving the interpretation up to the same people who had gotten it wrong for centuries, or getting on board to try and effect change on the same stage where the Mayflower will be the star of the show. It was not lost on us that we could either stand on our own and shout at anyone who would listen, or get on board and be heard by millions. But in choosing the latter we experienced criticism from Tribal nations across the country including our own Tribes.

Some questioned the sincerity of Plymouth 400 and expected we would be on a fool's mission to experience the same kind of censorship as the late Aquinnah elder and activist Frank "Wamsutta" James. Frank James was uninvited to address the Mayflower Society upon the 350th anniversary of the ship's arrival when his remarks were deemed distasteful despite being true. Instead in 1970 he gave that speech on the top of Cole's Hill on the Plymouth waterfront creating a platform for Native justice with a National Day of Mourning to be recognized every year since on Thanksgiving Day.

Quite to the contrary, nearly 50 years after James was told what he could and could not say, Plymouth 400 has been remarkably supportive of unfettered inclusion of the Wampanoag story in all elements of the com-

memoration.

It was an effort that began with that word - commemoration - in place of the word celebration. While it is certain 2020 will be festive for many Mayflower descendants and the like, Plymouth 400 was sensitive to the fact that colonization impacted indigenous people in a way that leaves us with far less to celebrate. The 2020 events and activities are officially a commemoration.

Then there was our initial request of Plymouth 400 that would test their commitment. We asked to start the clock several years earlier to tell the critical backstory of Mayflower's arrival. For the Wampanoag 400 years of colonization began far earlier than 1620. Epanow was stolen from Aquinnah in 1611. He returned in 1614 but not soon enough to warn 20 men in Patuxet not to board a ship with Capt. Thomas Hunt. All of them captured only Squanto returned to find his village wiped out by a plague brought by European traders. Patuxet was settled by the Pilgrims and became Plymouth. For non-natives, the Patuxet story is far less palatable than what is taught to third graders every Thanksgiving. We expected the idea to be rejected. We could walk away having done our best.

But it wasn't rejected. Plymouth 400 unanimously approved the concept and fully funded and promoted "Our"Story: A Wampanoag History. With support from the Indian Spiritual and Cultural Training Center Inc. the multi-media traveling exhibit was developed by a Wampanoag design team with complete editorial and content control. The first Plymouth 400 official exhibit was launched in November of 2014 with "Captured 1614" and new themes to be added each year in November through 2020. In November of 2015 we added "the Messenger Runner" theme including a viral video depicting a young Wampanoag man running through our historic territories.

So far "Our"Story has been a popular attraction throughout Southeastern Massachusetts and Connecticut giving the visiting public pause to consider a different side of the story.

While we aren't so naive to expect there will always be smooth sailing, our experience with the Mayflower anniversary planning group has been largely a positive one with people who are open minded and eager for balance in the portrayal of history. We also feel this anniversary is a unique opportunity to assure we are accurately represented before an international audience.

With the help of our Plymouth 400 Wampanoag Advisory Committee\* there remains a lot of work to be done over the next few years. Planning thus far includes a Messenger Runner road race, two conferences

on indigenous history, a powwow to be promoted as a signature event in 2020, a walk commemorating Wampanoag ancestors, and an educational/comedic event in which Masasoit roasts William Bradford. We are grateful for input from our tribal families including critiques and suggestions and look forward to sharing ways you can be involved. Please feel free to email Linda at [bornagainpatuxet@yahoo.com](mailto:bornagainpatuxet@yahoo.com) or Paula at [paula@smokesygnals.com](mailto:paula@smokesygnals.com).

Plymouth 400 Wampanoag Advisory  
Committee Members  
Bettina Washington  
Gertrude "Kitty" Hendricks Miller  
John "Jim" Peters Jr.  
Darius Coombs  
Troy Currence

### Open Seats on Election Committee

The Election Committee is seeking two dedicated tribal citizens to sit on the Election Committee. Presently there are two (2) open seats on the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Election Committee with 3-year terms each.

Any enrolled Tribal citizen who would like to serve must submit a letter of interest for the Election Committee to Francie Dottin at [fdottin@mwtribe.com](mailto:fdottin@mwtribe.com).

The Tribal Council will approve the committee appointment.

### Open Seat on the Enrollment Committee

The Enrollment Committee is looking for a dedicated tribal citizen interested in helping to oversee the Tribe's enrollment process. Presently there is one open seat for a three-year term on the Enrollment Committee. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please send a letter of interest to Francie Dottin, executive administrative assistant to the chairman, at [fdottin@mwtribe.com](mailto:fdottin@mwtribe.com).

The Enrollment Committee and the Enrollment Department are dedicated to the scrutiny of our tribal roll and by all accounts hold our citizens' information in the highest confidentiality.

## Role of the Peacemaker

**M**any may wonder what Peacemakers do and how important is their roles to Peacemaking. Well, their roles are very important to the process. They encourage open communication and create an environment that is safe and comfortable. The Peacemakers are not judges who make decisions for the parties nor are they lawyers or counselors who give advice. The Peacemakers do not influence the results. Peacemakers help the parties understand the nature of the issue in a comfortable, relaxed setting. They manage the process and not the content of the process. Peacemakers help the parties involved recognize the rights of others to the issue presented. The Peacemakers are impartial and neutral. Peacemakers must be aware of their bias and be able to put them aside. Peacemakers are trusted people and can take negative communication and reframe it into



a productive exchange. Peacemakers are a resource that can provide assistance to other experts that may be requested by the parties. Peacemakers' help others see the problem from many perspectives and assists the parties to identify options for resolution. Peacemakers are reality testers and help the parties build reasonable, workable solutions that they can agree upon.

## Tribe Hires Food Pantry Coordinator

The Tribe is pleased to announce Ellen Sharpe has been hired as the new Food Pantry Coordinator. Ellen is the daughter of Milton Frye Sr., and Marjorie Hendricks Duarte. Ellen lived in Mashpee all her life, is married with 2 children and 5 grandchildren. She has worked for several state agencies in the human service field and in labor relations. She holds a MPA in Government Finance and an undergraduate in the legal field and hopes to be able to use her skills and education to provide quality service to the Tribe.

## Student Athlete Featured at College

Bristol Community College men's basketball player has been featured on the school's new brochure. Steven is a sophomore and has maintained a 3.2 grade point average. Steven is the son of the late Elisha Clay Ash Johnson-Gonsalves and Steven Gonsalves, the grandson of the late Linda Yellow Year of Joy and the late Edward "Buddy" Johnson. He's the nephew of Winnie and Marlon Graham and Erica Johnson and Godbrother to Malana mushqay wopan "Red Dawn" Graham. Congratulations on being recognized as a standout student at your college.



## Remembering Michele Young

The family of Michele Young (Lindsey), (Running Quail) regrettably informs the Tribe of her passing on January 25, 2016 after a brief illness. She was the first born grandchild of Hannah Averett (Peters) and the first born child of Marcia Lindsey (Peters) and Charles Lindsey. Michele was born and raised in Boston, MA but as a child and teen spent summers in Mashpee. She is survived by her husband, two sons, six grandchildren, four sisters and two brothers. We loved her and will miss her greatly.

## Mashpee Enterprise Names Chayna and Joey as Athletes of the Week

*For the week ending February 5 the Mashpee Enterprise named Joey Spinola Mashpee's Athlete of the Week.*

It took a little while for Joey Spinola to get his legs under himself on the basketball court, after helping the Mashpee football team win the Division 6 state championship. It seems that the senior is right where he wants to be right now, though, on the court. Spinola has had a great stretch of games of late, including a big 14-point effort in a win over Monomoy on Tuesday night, February 2. He's reached double figures in three of his last four games, and played a large role in the Falcons push towards a state tournament spot.

*For the week ending February 19 the Mashpee Enterprise named Chayna Hendricks Mashpee's Athlete of the Week.*

Chayna Hendricks found herself in the zone last Friday night, February 12. Nearly every shot that she threw up from the perimeter went right through the basket. Heck, at halftime she started tossing up treys and did not miss any of them, hitting six consecutive. Three went in during the first quarter of the game; then another one dropped in the third quarter. With the four from the outside, Hendricks had her best game of the season, scoring 19 points to lead the Lady Falcons to a big win over a very good Carver High School team.

## Passing of Earle Alexander Lammers

Earle Alexander Lammers passed away on the morning of Friday, March 18 from cancer. Earle was born on June 6, 1943 in New Bedford, Massachusetts and lived in Florida at the time of his passing. He was the son of Nannie Genevieve Boardley and Alexander Balford Lammer and was the great grandson of Benjamin Franklin Boardley and Gertrude Coombs (Oakley). He will be greatly missed by family and friends including his nephew Stephen Wixon who shared the obituary.

## Past Mashpee Leaders: Mabel Avant (Nakoomis)

**M**ashpee has a vibrant history thanks to a long list of Mashpee Wampanoag that ran the political establishments, operated the emergency services and the day-to-day operation the community. Up to the early 1970's Mashpee was truly a "little Indian town" that flourished under strong, capable leaders. Each month we'd like to feature one of our ancestors that helped shape our community.

This month we're featuring Librarian, Historian and Mashpee Town Clerk Mabel L. Avant (Nakoomis). An important figure in the community, Mabel's presence in the community can still be felt. Today her house is preserved as the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum.

Mabel was born in 1892 and lived in Mashpee her entire life. She was well known around town for her affinity for education with a particular interest in reading, writing

poetry and the history of the Mashpee Wampanoag. This was evident in the many leadership roles she assumed in the town of Mashpee and her mission to carry on the values and traditional ways of the Mashpee Wampanoag citizens.

Mabel married George Avant and together raised their four sons and three daughters in what is now the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum. In addition to her roles as a wife and mother, she served as the town librarian, Tribal historian and mortician.

Mabel ran for tribal office in 1935 and was an elected official for the Town of Mashpee. She served as the town clerk and was responsible for certifying voters, collecting election results and maintaining community demographics.

Mabel's granddaughter Joan Avant Tavares remembers her best for stories and the positive mark she left on her community. "Na-



koomis has gone on to her greater reward. She lived a full life and influenced many people. The Wampanoags still remember this strong and personable woman who was one of a long line of warriors fighting for the Indian cause."

### New Location for CCDF Public Hearing

The Tribal Child Care Program and the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) have moved its annual public hearing to a new location. The public hearing, which is being held on Thursday, April 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., will now be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

During the annual public hearing

the staff will answer any questions you may have and will listen to input and suggestions that the community have on the Tribal Child Care Program. CCDF will also conduct a plan preprint for 2016 at the meeting.

For more information about the annual public hearing of the Tribal Child Care Program, contact CCDF Program Manager Marcy Hendricks at [mahendricks@mw-tribe.com](mailto:mahendricks@mw-tribe.com) or at (508) 477-0208 x160.

### Elders' Election

Below are the results from the Elders' Election held on March 5, 2016.

#### Chairperson (4 Year Term)

Joanne Frye.....	55
Aaron Tobey.....	51

#### Vice Chairperson (3 Year Term)

LaVerne Jackson.....	79
Myrna Nuey.....	25

#### Secretary (4 Year Term)

Shirlee Mae Oakley.....	106
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#### Treasurer (3 Year Term)

Pauline Peters.....	52
Robyn Stamps.....	54

### Calling all Grads

Do you know anyone graduating high school, college or getting a GED or certificate?

The Education Department is gathering information for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduation Brunch to be held on a Saturday in June at the Tribal Government and Community Building.

The Department is requesting that each graduating student fill out the Graduating High School/College Information Sheet. To obtain a sheet and more information please contact the Education Department at 508-477-0208 or [afoxx@mwtribe.com](mailto:afoxx@mwtribe.com) as soon as possible.

Students should fill out the Information sheet even though you may not be attending the Graduation Brunch.

### Budget Vote

All enrolled and eligible-to-vote Tribal Members are allowed to register on or before the day of the Annual Budget Vote. All registered voters must have a valid federal, state or Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal issued photo identification to vote.

#### BUDGET VOTE DAY:

Meeting of the General Membership of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe  
Sunday, April 10, 2016

#### VOTING HOURS:

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### LOCATION:

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community & Government Center Gymnasium, Mashpee Wampanoag Reservation, 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee, MA 02649.

### Elders' Update

The Elders' first Penny Sale at the Government Center was held on Saturday, February 20, 2016 and was a huge success! We want to thank everyone who came out to support us. Keep your eyes on the Mit-tark for more upcoming fundraisers and events!

Ever dream about being part of a band?! Tribal member Steve Helme is looking for anyone interested in becoming a member of his existing band. Please contact the Elders Department if you are interested at (508) 477-0208 x 182 or at [ifrye@mwtribe.com](mailto:ifrye@mwtribe.com).