

## Nashauonk Mittark<sup>™</sup>



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February 2014

**DRUM BEAT** 

IN THE NEWS

**DEPARTMENTS** 

COMMUNITY

#### Chairman's Column



Dear Tribal Community,

We have had a busy month and continue to move forward! We had a record turnout of voters at our February election: more than any other non-officer election so far. Over 500 tribal members came out to vote! Our community has spoken and voted to keep the incumbent Tribal Council members in their seats. Congratulations to Council Members Carlton Hendricks, Cheryl-Frye Cromwell, Yvonne Avant and Winnie Johnson-Graham! Great job to everyone who ran for a seat this election and a special thanks to our Election Committee for all their hard work! As voted on by Tribal members and Tribal Council, this election was for a one-year term so these seats will be up again next year.

Another accomplishment this month was the Tribal-State Compact becoming official. The Compact becomes official when the Interior Department posts it in the Federal register and it becomes federal law. The Compact is effectively a license for our Tribe to provide Class III gaming at the gaming site in Taunton, Massachusetts, after Land Into Trust is completed by the U.S. Department of Interior. If the Massachusetts Gaming Commission breaches the Tribal-State Compact in region C, awarding a Commercial license to another destination resort Casino, our Tribe will pay zero revenue to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. If the Mass Gaming Commission does not award another Commercial Destination Resort Casino license in Region C, our Tribe will pay 17 percent gross gaming revenue to the Commonwealth. This

#### **Community & Government Center Opens**

he Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Nation's Community & Government Center construction is complete and final. Our "Certificate of Occupancy" is official and our Tribal Operations Department transition will be complete this week. The move into the building is monumental for our Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Nation and is an epic milestone that our entire Nation can be proud of and embrace.

"I cannot emphasize how monumental this move into the building is for our Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Nation. This is an Epic milestone that our entire Nation can be proud of and embrace," said Chairman Cedric Cromwell

The new building represents a vision of advancing our Tribal Nation with a Community & Government Center that will provide a hub for our tribal community; where Tribal citizens can gather for Tribal & community events, health & wellness, programs and services, basketball, volleyball and many other recreational opportunities. And, our Elders Lounge will provide a comfortable area for gatherings and fellowship!

We want to celebrate the forward movement of our Tribal Nation on Saturday, March 29, 2014 from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.



with the official "Celebration and Ceremony" of our New Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community & Government Center. Tribal citizens who are interested in participating on the coordinating team for the Celebration and Ceremony activities, please contact Councilwoman Trish Keliinui at (774) 316-0305 or tkeliinui@mwtribe.com.



#### All Four Incumbents Re Elected

The Tribal Council remains the same, as voters re elected all of the incumbents at the February 9 elections. 513 Tribal Members made it out to the polls. Carlton Hendricks Jr., led all candidates with 246 votes followed by Cheryl Frye Cromwell with 225. Yvonne Avant received 215 votes and Winnie Johnson Graham got 213 votes.





The 513 voters set a record for turnout at an election that did not include one of the four officer positions on the Tribal Council.

"I am proud of our tribal members for turning out in such numbers to exercise their right to vote and affirm the sovereignty of our nation," said Chairman Cedric





(Continued on page 8)

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# DRUM BEAT



#### **Events Calendar**

#### **New Events**

March 9 - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. General Body Meeting, Mashpee High School

March 13 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Pawôkamuq, The Dream Center, Information Meeting Mashpee Public Library

March 22 6:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. 18th Annual Wampanoag Ball, Sea Crest Beach Hotel

March 29 - 12 noon - 8:00 p.m. Tribal Government Center Open House, 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee

March 30 - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

April 26 Wampanoag Youth Ball, Navigator, 55 Ashumet Road, Falmouth

#### **Weekly Events**

Tuesdays – 5:30 p.m. Enrollment Committee, 766 Falmouth Road A-3, Mashpee

Thursdays - 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wamp Support Group,
Old Indian Meeting House

Monthly – 7:00 p.m.
Chiefs Circle, Old Indian Meeting House
It is held the first Tuesday of the month.

Monthly - 6:00 p.m.
Public Safety Commission,
Madaket Place, A4 Conference Room,
It is held the third Tuesday of the month.

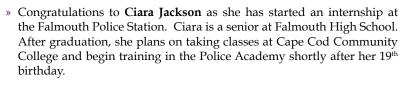
#### Language Classes

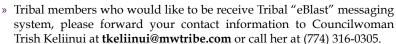
Boston Quincy Class: Beginner's Workbook - March 13 to April 24

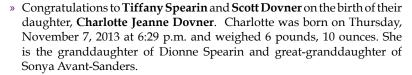
Visit WLRP.org or call (508) 419-6281 for event details, registration and upcoming language classes.



#### **Tribal Announcements**











Ciara Jackson

### Join a Committee

The Powwow and Election Committee's are looking for new members. If you are a Tribal member interested in serving on the Powwow Committee, please contact Tribal Councilman and Committee Liaison Bobby Foster at **cfoster@mwtribe.com** or (774) 238-2273. Members interested in serving on the Election Committee may contact Committee Chairwoman Kim Frye at **kfrye@mwtribe.com** or (774) 238-2129.



### Youth Council Visits D.C.



Tribal Youth Council members at the Mid Year Conference in D.C. Shauntea' Turner (Chaperone), Joey Spinola, Keturah Peters, Danna Jackson, Sassamin Weeden, Attaquin Weeden (back row), Brian Weeden (Chaperone)

### DRUM BEAT



#### **Progress with Project First Light**

he Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe announced on February 11 that the public comment period on the Tribe's land into trust request, which includes lands in Mashpee and the Project First Light destination resort casino in Taunton, is now over and the final phase of the environmental review process is now underway.

"We appreciate all the feedback from residents in Southeastern Massachusetts during the public comment period on our Project First Light environmental impact reports." Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Chairman Cedric Cromwell said today. "With the comment period for federal and state reviews now over, we are pleased to start the final phase of the environmental impact review process. The BIA and the Tribe are now examining all public comment and preparing the final environmental impact reports, which will be available for public review and comment soon."

While Project First Light has benefited from significant local support, the Tribe is focusing on some of the specific concerns expressed by local residents during the comment period. A number of public comments concerned the current traffic congestion in and around the Route 24 and 140 interchange. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has already targeted the interchange as a priority and unveiled its own proposals to improve the interchange over a year ago. The Tribe and the BIA outlined their own recommendations in the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement published last year, and are looking forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders to complete the review process.

The Tribal gaming compact with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts includes important funding and mitigation provisions. Once the Project First Light destination resort casino is operating and generating revenue, the Commonwealth is expected to receive \$2.1 billion over a 20 year period. The tribe's funding will be directed to address a variety of purposes, including education, transportation, infrastructure and tourism programs. There is also \$300 million that is specifically allocated for Southeastern Massachusetts.

The compact also has provisions that reduce these revenue commitments if another casino or slot parlor license is issued in Region C. Should another casino be licensed in Region C, then the tribe would not be obligated to provide \$2.1 billion in funding. Its financial obligations would be reduced to zero. A slot parlor license in Region C is estimated to reduce the tribe's financial commitment to the Commonwealth by roughly \$300 million.



"We are very pleased with the support from the Governor, the Commonwealth's legislative leadership and Taunton's civic and business leaders, especially Mayor Hoye." Cromwell said today. "I also want to commend the Obama administration for making land acquisition a priority for Native Americans. The administration is making significant progress in reaching its goal of placing 500,000 acres of land in trust by December 2016. Already the Bureau of Indian Affairs has processed more than 1,400 individual trust applications, accepting more than 230,000 acres in trust on behalf of tribes."



#### Chairman's Column

(continued)

is very significant for our Tribe and an important step in bringing the destination resort casino to the City of Taunton.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. During this meeting, there will be a presentation and then a vote will take place.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Ball date has been announced. It will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. at the Sea Crest Beach Resort. Tickets are available for purchase now. This year's annual ball proceeds will benefit the planning and construction of the Tribal playground at the new Government Center. This is a fun event and proceeds go to a great cause so I hope to see the entire Tribal Community there!

Kutâputunumuw;

Cedric Cromwell
Qaqeemasq (Running Bear)

#### **Health Insurance Deadline March 31**

ake sure you are enrolled in a health insurance plan through the Marketplace by March 31, 2014. Everyone is required to have health insurance coverage in 2014, or pay a fee when they file their federal income tax return in 2015. The fee is sometimes called the "shared responsibility payment." After open enrollment ends on March 31, 2014, health coverage is no longer available through the Marketplace until the next annual enrollment period, unless they have a qualifying life event. For more information visit <a href="https://www.healthcare.gov">www.healthcare.gov</a>.

There is an application for exemption for American Indians. Enrolled Tribal members interested in an exemption from the Shared Responsibility Payment must apply for an exemption through the Marketplace, or on their 2014 taxes by April 2015. The exemption certificate number is issued to Tribal individuals for life, and since you never know when you might have a gap in health insurance, Tribal members should apply for the exemption regardless of whether they choose to carry health insurance. Applications for exemption are available at Tribal Health office.

Kimberly Frye and Wendy Pocknett are Certified Application Counselors available to assist with your healthcare coverage. For more information and to sign up please call (508) 477-6912.



### Commonwealth Care is Ending

If you pay a monthly Commonwealth Care fee, then you will need to reapply for new health insurance by March 24, 2014 to avoid gaps in your coverage. You will most likely qualify for a new program called ConnectorCare. Applications are available at the Tribal Health office or visit www.mahealthconnector.org.

### IN THE NEWS



#### Tribe Commemorates Relationship with Harvard

Chairman Cromwell gathered at the Harvard Faculty Club with Tobias Vanderhoop, Chairman of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah, and others on February 7<sup>th</sup> for a clambake in honor of the tribe's long-standing relations with the university.

"The Mashpee Wampanoag tribe and Harvard University have ties that go all the way back to the university's earliest days," Chairman Cromwell said. "It's important to celebrate that connection and look for ways that we can work together in the future."

He told the Harvard Crimson, the university's student newspaper, that Harvard should try to do more to include Native American tribes.

The Charter of 1650, the document that establishes the Harvard Corporation as the governing body of the university, mentions Native American students, stating that the nascent college should serve both "English and Indian youth."

Cromwell has organized efforts to

integrate Harvard with the Native American community by lobbying the College to award Joel Iacoomes with a posthumous degree in 2011. Iacoomes was a Wampanoag tribal member and Harvard attendee, who died in a 1665 shipwreck shortly before graduating,

Chairman Cromwell told the

Crimson that Harvard must continue to foster relations with local tribes — particularly by recruiting more indigenous students.

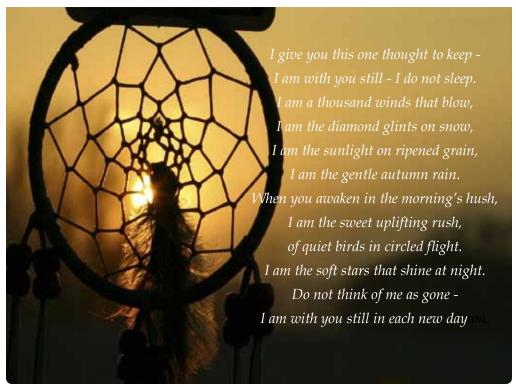
Judith Sanford-Harris, a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Elders Council, told the Crimson that Harvard can do more to create a welcoming environment for Native American applicants.



Pictured from left to right is Aquinnah Wampanoag
Tribal Chairman Tobias
Vanderhoop, Harvard
University Reverend
Jonathon L. Walten and
Mashpee Wampanoag
Chairman Cedric Cromwell
attending the ceremony at the
Harvard Faculty Club

#### Prayers for Cedarville Rancheria Tribe

he Tribal Council would like to take a moment to honor the victims of the Cedarville Rancheria Tribal shooting last month and send prayers for the full recovery of the injured. The small tribe of 35 are descendants of the Paiutes and lost four tribal members when someone opened fire during a tribal meeting. Two other tribal members were injured. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Cedarville tribe, their family and friends.



#### Pawôkamuq, The Dream Center

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is currently planning the opening of Pawôkamuq, The Dream Center. This will be a place of healing for our families suffering with the disease of addiction. Our intention is that the center will be reflective of Mashpee Wampanoag cultural and spiritual values and community ownership and direct involvement. We need your help in order to make this happen. The newly appointed Tribal Coordinating Committee requests your attendance at an informational meeting on Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2014 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM at the Mashpee Public Library.

At this gathering we will discuss the Vision and Mission and ways that you can help. Please do not hesitate to contact the office of the Vice Chairwoman with questions. (508) 477-0208.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### DEPARTMENT



#### **New Wellness Group Being Offered**

he Behavioral Health Department of Wampanoag Health Service Unit Indian Health Service is offering a Wellness Group for Tribal adult men and women. The group will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., at 483B Great Neck Road South, Mashpee. The first meeting will be held on March 11th and will run for a minimum of six weeks. Childcare is not provided and participants must be registered with the health clinic and have been given a health record number.

Wellness is a positive approach to life and health that maximizes an individuals potential. Wellness encompasses a "whole" person: spiritually physically, emotionally, intellectually, socially and occupationally.



For more information, please contact PumukQien Collins, Behavioral Health Specialist, at (508) 539-2562 or Nadine Phillips, Licensed Therapist, at (508) 539-6965.

#### Licensed Therapist Hired

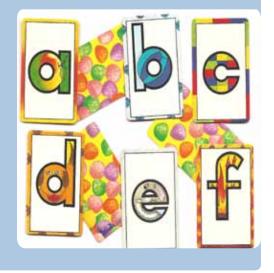
Nadine Maria Phillips joined the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit Indian Health Service on January 27, 2014 as a Licensed Therapist in the Behavioral Health Unit. Nadine brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her new position. She has experience working with children, couples and families. Nadine has most recently worked with clients having mental health disorders and the incarcerated population. Nadine plans to get very involved in the Mashpee community serving wherever her expertise can be utilized. Please stop by the Health Service Unit and join us in welcoming Nadine to the team!



Nadine Maria Phillips, Licensed Therapist

#### Tribal Early Head Start Program

The Education Department has discovered a grant that would provide funds to establish a Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Early Head Start (EHS) program. If you are interested in Early Childhood Education as a possible career and would like to work specifically with tribal children, then the Education Department may be able to assist you with funding, training and receiving proper certification as an early childhood educator. For more information, please contact the Tribal Education Department at (508) 419-6017 ext. 609, or by email at education@ mwtribe.com. Training in early childhood education is great opportunity to instill tribal traditions from an early age, while providing our children with the best support and preparation for school readiness.



### Caregivers and Committee Members

Tribal Health is looking for Volunteer Caregivers and Health Committee members. Volunteer Caregivers will assist Tribal Members in need of additional help in their home. Caregivers are eligible for a stipend.



#### **Government & Community Center**



## DEPARTMENT



#### **Quit Commercial Tobacco NOW**

he Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit would like to help anyone with his or her efforts to quit commercial tobacco and urge anyone who regularly uses commercial tobacco to consider all risks associated with it.

- $\sqrt{\phantom{0}}$  Tobacco use is responsible for more than 430,000 deaths each year and is the largest cause of preventable death and disease in the United States
- √ 32.4% of Native American people smoke. This is the highest smoking rate for any ethnic or racial group in the United States

Traditional tobacco is different because tobacco is a sacred plant that has been used by Native Americans for thousands of years for religious, ceremonial, and medicinal purposes. Sacred or traditional tobacco is different from commercial tobacco. Commercial tobacco contains many added chemicals that are harmful to our health.

Benefits of quitting commercial

tobacco include:

- ✓ More money in your pocket from not buying commercial tobacco products
- √ Be a positive role model for your loved ones
- √ Not exposing yourself and others to secondary smoke
- √ Fresh breath instead of tobacco breath

If you are currently using tobacco products, there are many health benefits of quitting. If you are a smoker, quitting will reduce your chance of having:

- √ Cancer of the lungs, throat, mouth, lips, gums, bladder and kidney
- Heart disease, hardening of the arteries, and stroke
- √ Emphysema and other lung diseases
- √ Circulation problems

If you have children, your quitting can lower their risk of:

- √ Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- √ Asthma
- √ Ear infections

- √ Allergies
- √ Bronchitis and other lung problems

To receive help quitting tobacco, contact the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit at (508) 477-6967 and schedule an appointment to speak with a provider about quitting commercial tobacco, or call the National Quit Hotline at (800) Quit-Now, (800) 784-8669.

Stay healthy by not using commercial tobacco products and be a positive role model for your loved ones, family, and community.



## COMMUNITY



#### Tribal Youth Perform in Hansel & Gretel



On February 1st several Tribal Youth were featured in the performance of Hansel & Gretel at Mashpee High School. The play was hosted by the Mashpee Pops, Inc and was presented by the Missoula Children's Theater. Congratulations to all that was involved; it was a wonderful performance.

Tribal Youth Participants; Brianna Johnson, Jeneya Perry, Cheyenne Hendricks, Ciara Hendricks and Dasia Peters

### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Spirit Lake Tournament



The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will once again send basketball players in grades 5-8 to participate in the Spirit Lake basketball tournament. The tournament will take place on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Boys practice began February 24th and meets from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Quashnet School gymnasium located at 150 Old Barnstable Road, Mashpee. Anyone interested in participating can contact Councilman Carlton Hendricks at (774) 238-1075 or chendricks@mwtribe.com.

### COMMUNITY



#### Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Awards and Scholarship

he 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Ball is being held on Saturday April 26, 2014 at the Navigator Club on Sandwich Road in East Falmouth, MA. Nominations are now being accepted for the Tribal Youth Leadership Award, Youth Leadership Award, Dream Big Award, and the Sportsmanship Award. If you know someone who fits any of the award descriptions below, please submit their information to Powwow Princess Danna Jackson by email at **ddjackson93@gmail.com** no later than March 28, 2014. Winners will be announced at the Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Ball.



√ Nominations may only be submitted by tribal members and may not be anonymous
 √ A nomination will not be considered

unless the nominator is identified and nomination is properly completed 
√ Nominations must include the nominee's name, telephone number and email address, completed along with a maximum of one typed page explaining why you feel your nominee should win the award

### Award Descriptions Danna Jackson Role Model Scholarship \*self-nomination

Within our tribe we have many youth that other youth can look up to and that is exactly what this scholarship honors. This award shall be presented to one tribal member either a junior or senior in high school that has worked hard to advocate for the Mashpee Wampanoag tribal youth as well as give them someone young to look up to. This year the recipient of this award shall receive a \$500 scholarship towards school to honor their devotion to the Mashpee Wampanoag Youth. Please submit a personal essay on why you believe you should receive the scholarship. Tribal Youth Leadership Award

This award honors two Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Youth (one female and one male) from the age of 13 to 19. These youth should display traditional values, good grades, a strong work ethic, respect and all other leadership qualities.

#### Youth Leadership Award

This award will be given to non-tribal members from the ages of 13 to 19. The

recipients of this award should display academic achievement, community service, strong work ethic as well as all other leadership qualities. (Recipients may be nonnative or from another tribe).

#### Dream Big Award

This award honors two Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Youth (one female and one male) from the age of 13 to 19. This award is given to two tribal members who do not have any limitations to what they believe they can achieve. It is given to two youth that know what they want to accomplish and are willing to work and persevere through any odds to succeed. These people should be positive and optimistic while believing and having faith in themselves as they take steps to reach their dreams.

#### Sportsmanship Award

This award honors two Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Youth (one female and one male) from the age of 13 to 19. The recipients of this award should demonstrate devotion to a sport and team as well as being a valued player because of their skills and positive influence on their teammates. This athlete should also show leadership and attempt to contribute to the improvement of the team while as constantly working to better their self as a player.

Please contact Danna Jackson with any questions: (774) 257-0687 or <u>ddjackson93@gmail.com</u>.

### Mommy/Daddy & Me Language Class

Registration is still open for the Wôpanâak Language Program Mommy/Daddy & Me class. This is an interactive language Class designed for toddlers, ages 18 months to 3 years old, and their parents. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must accompany their child(ren). Classes are held in the WLRP Office, 800 Summerfield Park, Mashpee from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Schedule and details for the month of March are as follows:

March 1st: Learning with Numbers

March 15th: Basic Commands

March 29th: Basic Commands

For More Information, please contact instructor at <a href="mailto:tiapocknett@gmail.com">tiapocknett@gmail.com</a>.

All language programs are available to Mashpee, Aquiannah, Assonet and

Herring Pond Enrolled Tribal and household members only (children must be accompanied by an adult). You may register at your first class. Wôpanâak Language classes are free of charge however, donations of any amount are gratefully accepted.



#### Save the Date



The Mashpee Wampanoag will share a day of "Celebration and Ceremony" on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 noon – 8:00 p.m. with the blessing of our Nation's new Government and Community building. Please mark your calendars as further notices will be forthcoming.



483 Great Neck Road South Mashpee, MA 02649



### CON/IN/III



#### Wampanoag Ball Tickets Now on Sale

ave the date for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Ball which will be held on Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in North Falmouth. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the festivities are scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. This year's theme will be "Celebrating our New Beginning."

Tickets can now be purchased at Puritan Clothing in the Mashpee Commons, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Office and at the Tribe's satellite office in New Bedford. Tickets for our elders have been reduced to \$20 and general admission tickets are \$30.

Hotel rooms are available and may be reserved for \$95 when providing the event code "Wampanoag." Make a reservation by calling 1 800 225-3110, or visit <a href="www.seacrestbeachhotel.com">www.seacrestbeachhotel.com</a>.



### February 9 Election Results (continued)

Cromwell. "I thank all of those who ran for office, congratulate the winners and welcome them back to the Council."

Five challengers were on the ballot and included Aaron Tobey, Marcy Hendricks, Winona Pocknett, Robyn Tobey Stamps and Laverne Jackson.

Carlton Hendricks Jr	246
Cheryl Frye-Cromwell	225
Yvonne Frye Avant	215
Winnie Johnson-Graham	213
Winona Pocknett	200
Aaron Tobey Jr	199
Robyn Tobey Stamps	197
LaVerne Jackson	155
Marcy Hendricks	127