



# Nashauonk Mittark™

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DRUM BEAT

DEPARTMENTS

IN THE NEWS

COMMUNITY

## Chairman's Column



Dear Tribal Community,

We have received exciting news: as I announced at January's General Membership Meeting, federal officials have informed the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe that our land in trust application is proceeding rapidly. Please read the letter from Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn on the right.

This is another critical step forward for our proposed destination resort casino, which will create thousands of jobs and widespread economic opportunities for our Tribe and our neighbors in southeastern Massachusetts.

The December 31 letter was sent to update us on the status of our application for land in Mashpee and Taunton to be placed in trust. The Washburn letter states that he has completed an initial review and is moving forward in processing the application according to the initial reservation exception.

Washburn writes, "After an initial review of the Tribe's application and other applicable documents in the record, we will be directing the Eastern Regional Director to begin processing the Tribe's application pursuant to this [initial reservation] exception. The Office of Indian Gaming will complete

## Application for Reservation Moves Forward

**T**he federal review of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's application to have land taken into federal trust is moving forward rapidly, getting us over a major hurdle and another step closer to building a Destination Resort Casino in Taunton.

In a letter dated Dec. 31, Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary for the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, told the Tribe he's completed an initial review and directed the BIA's regional office in Nashville, Tenn., to "begin processing the tribe's application" for an initial reservation. Below is a transcript of Washburn's letter.

*This letter is to update you on the status of the Mashpee Wampanoag's application and request for a Secretarial determination of the Tribe's eligibility to game pursuant to the "initial reservation" exception found in Section 20 of Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), 25 U.S.C. § 2719(b)*

*(1)(B)(ii). After an initial review of the Tribe's application and other applicable documents in the record, we will be directing the Eastern Regional Director to begin processing the Tribe's application pursuant to this exception. The Office of Indian Gaming will complete its final analysis of the applicability of the initial reservation exception in January 2013.*

*Additionally, we continue to review the record to develop our determination of the Secretary's authority to acquire land for the Tribe pursuant to Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act, 25 U.S.C. § 465. We intend to finalize our analysis also in early 2013.*

*Please contact the Office of Indian Gaming at (202) 219-4066 if you have any questions.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kevin Washburn  
Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs*

## Tribal Administrator Hired

Trula Ann Breuninger was selected as the new Tribal Administrator. In her new position, she will work closely with the Tribal Council, staff and the community to fulfill the Tribe's mission for sustainability and prosperity. Trula is Dine and a tribal member of the Navajo Nation and grew up on the reservation and southern California. She is of the Bitter Water clan (Tó dích'íinii) and One Walks Around clan (Honághááhnii). She grew up with 9 siblings. Trula is very excited to join the

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.



Trula attended Brigham Young University as an undergraduate then attained her Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of California in Berkeley, and went on to the W.P. Carey School of Business at Ari-

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## Events Calendar

### New Events

**February 10 – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
Tribal Elections, *Mashpee High School*

**February 17 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
General Body Meeting, *Mashpee High School*

**February 23 – 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
Quit Smoking Meeting, *Mashpee Public Library*

**February 23 – 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
Winter Social, *Plimoth Plantation*

**March 10 – 2:00 p.m.**  
General Body Meeting, *Mashpee High School*

**March 23 – 6:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.**  
Wampanoag Ball, *Sea Crest*

### Weekly Events

**Tuesdays – 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**  
Volleyball, *KC Coombs School*

**Biweekly – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
Mashpee Food Pantry, *The food pantry is held on Monday and Wednesday every other week*

**Biweekly – 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**  
New Bedford Food Pantry, *The food pantry is held on Tuesday and Thursday every other week*

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

### Language Classes

Watch [WLRP.org](http://WLRP.org) for upcoming new language classes as well as our annual 3-day family immersion camp!

Please double check the events calendar for upcoming events before booking your event. There have been several events scheduled on the same day and time in the past and we want all to be able to enjoy!



### Tribal Announcements

» Congratulations to **Tracy Kelley** and **Jason Vassellon** the birth of their baby. They welcomed our new Little One to the family; **Isaiah Tahshayuw Atuqun Vassell** on December 4. He weighed 9lbs. 2oz. and is very healthy!

» **Rachael Fermino**, who is studying at Lesley University, made a GPA of 3.717 for the Fall Semester!

» Congratulations to **Shauntea Turner** on her recent promotion. On November 19, 2012 Shauntea was promoted from Administrative Coordinator to Program and Training Coordinator in Human Resources at The Brigham and Women's Hospital. Shauntea has been in the department for almost 5 years and with the organization for almost 9 years. She is in charge of recruiting, interviewing, on-boarding, training, and placing all Hospital Volunteers in various departments.

» Congratulations to **Vincent Purdie Jr** and **Crystal Gaspa** on the birth of their beautiful little daughter **Aaliyah Arione Purdie**, born December 10. Vincent is the son of Kimberly Frye and grandson of Daniel Sr and Eileen Frye.

» Congratulations to **Eric Stamps, Pamela Sullivan** and proud grandmother Robyn Stamps on the birth of **Jossalyn Zinaida Sullivan Stamps**, born December 29 weighing 10 lbs and 22 inches.

» Congratulations to **Chenoa Peters and Taylor Rose** both 6th graders, and **Dasia Peters** 5th grade at Quashnet

Middle School on their induction into the National Elementary Honor Society on Jan. 14, 2013.

» Congratulations to **Tiara Mills** and **Jarran Watkins** on the birth of their daughter, **Faith Watkins** born November 14 weighing 8.2 lbs and 21.5 inches. Congratulations!



» Congratulations to **Stephanie Harris**, a junior at Brown University, for earning all As for the second straight semester. She now has a 3.6 GPA.

» Tribal Health will be hosting a substance abuse information session coming in March.

» Congratulations to **Vernon Pocknett**. Vernon was selected by International SportsDownUnder organization to represent the the United States in Track and Field this summer in Australia. Vernon is proud as a Wampanoag Warrior to also 'represent' his Tribe. He will be looking for sponsors to make donations (no matter how small) towards the cost of travel. More details to follow.

» As part of **Doug Pocknett Jr.'s** Senior Project, he is researching the genealogy of Blanche Pocknett. She was a student in the One Room Schoolhouse in Mashpee. In addition, he will be writing a 12-page paper on the history of the One Room School House. Doug has already found information that was not in the Mashpee Archives.



## Tribal Elder, Johnny Newcomb

**T**ribal Elder, Johnny Newcomb, left our physical world to be with our Ancestors February 23, 2012. A strong Mashpee Wampanoag and life member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Rod & Gun Club, Johnny was well known for actively exercising our aboriginal hunting and fishing rights.

Johnny's family is hosting "A Celebration of Life" dinner featuring Johnny's favorite dishes Saturday, February 23, 2013, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the Mashpee Wampanoag Rod & Gun Club.



All are welcome. Please feel free to bring your own favorite dish to share.

The family would like to create a memorial video to play throughout the evening. If you are interested in helping with dinner preparations or have photos and/or memories of Johnny that you would like to share, please contact Jodi Newcomb at 508-479-4791 or email capecodforever@me.com.

## Chairman *(continued)*

its final analysis of the applicability of the initial reservation exception in January 2013." Washburn also stated the BIA expects to complete in early 2013 its analysis of the Secretary's authority to acquire land in trust for the Tribe in light of the Supreme Court's 2009 *Carcieri v. Salazar* decision.

The schedule outlined by Washburn means that our land in trust application is a priority. We appreciate this very strong commitment from the Obama Administration and the support of Governor Patrick and our congressional delegation.

This progress would have been impossible without the unwavering support of our Tribal members and Tribal Council to push forward and fight for our right to sovereign land.

It is important to remember that land in trust isn't just about gaming. We're even more excited about what finally having a reservation will mean for our tribe. A reservation is critical to our ability to operate as a tribal government, to provide services to our people like housing, health care and education, and to maintain our history and culture in our ancestral homeland.

The initial reservation exception is found in Section 20 of the Indian Regulatory Gaming Act. It is one of the few exceptions to a prohibition on gaming on lands taken into trust after October 17, 1988, and is expressly intended for newly recognized Indian tribes, such as the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, that do not have a reservation.

This is exciting news for our Tribe and our efforts to acquire trust lands, provide the very best in services to our people, and to create jobs, and direct financial support for tribal members.

Kutaputunumuw;  
Cedric Cromwell  
Qaqemasq (Running Bear)

## Constance "Connie" Bearnse Santos

Condolences to the family of Constance "Connie" Bearnse Santos, June 19, 1932-January 7, 2013. She leaves behind her husband of 51 years, Herman Santos of Harwich; daughters, Lynne

Santos Flores and Margaret Ghiorso, both of California; and pre-deceased by her sisters, Clarice Frye, Mildred Foxx, Juliette Scott, and Anne Bearnse Goler, all raised in Hyannis.

## Newton High School Coat Drive

A big thank you goes out to the Students at Newton High School for collecting coats and blankets to donate to the Tribe. These coats and blankets will help keep many families in need warm this winter. It's even nicer when a kind gesture comes from kids and young adults. These students at Newton High School took the time to set up a stand in their school and were asking for winter coats donations for Native American



families in need. These students need to be recognized for their incredibly fine deeds as an outstanding spectacular group of students.

## Pics from Tuesday Night Volleyball



## Historic Preservation Commission Searching for New Members

The Tribal Historic Preservation Department seeks to establish an 8-member Mashpee Wampanoag Historic Preservation Commission (MWHPC). The Commission will provide advice to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer on decisions related to preserving tribal culture, history, language, historical sites, structures, cultural items, burial sites, and other sites of significance.

Wanted: Two tribal members who are interested and knowledgeable of the Mashpee Wampanoag history, culture, and land use practices of our ancestors who are willing to serve as Historic

Preservation Commissioners

**Duties:** Attend meeting once a month (maximum of 2 hours per meeting), offer advice and guidance to THPO for developing protection plans of important cultural sites and items. Two Year Term

### The Historic Preservation Commission includes:

1. Chairperson of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Museum (or appointee)
2. Chairperson of the Mashpee Old Indian Meetinghouse House Committee (or appointee)
3. Chairperson of the Language

Committee (or appointee)

4. The Tribal Chief (or appointee)
5. The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
6. The Tribal Medicine Person (or appointee)
7. Tribal member
8. Tribal member

Interested persons may contact Ramona Peters at (508) 477-6186 or send email to [rpeters@mwtribe.com](mailto:rpeters@mwtribe.com)

End date for submitting name of interested persons: February 28, 2013

## VA and IHS Announce Reimbursement Agreement

Mashpee Wampanoag Veterans will soon have increased access to health care services closer to home following a recent Department of Veterans Affairs and Indian Health Service (IHS) joint national agreement.

"There is a long, distinguished tradition of military service among tribes," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "VA is committed to expanding access to native Veterans with the full range of VA programs, as earned by their service to our Nation."

"The President has called on all Cabinet Secretaries to find better ways to provide our military families with the support they deserve, and that is exactly what we are doing today," said Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans benefit from this agreement, which provides increased options for health care services."

As a result of the national agreement, VA is now able to reimburse the IHS for direct care services provided to eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans. While the national agreement applies only to VA and IHS,

it will inform agreements negotiated between the VA and tribal health programs. VA copayments do not apply to direct care services provided by IHS to eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans under this agreement.

"The VA and IHS, in consultation with the federally-recognized tribal governments, have worked long and hard to come to an equitable agreement that would ensure access to quality health care would be made available to our Nation's heroes living in tribal communities," said Dr. Robert Petzel, undersecretary for health, Veterans Health Administration.



"This agreement will also strengthen VA, IHS and tribal health programs by increasing access to high-quality care for Native Veterans, particularly those in highly rural areas."

"This reimbursement agreement between the VA and the IHS will help improve health care services for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans and further the IHS mission and federal responsibility of raising the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level possible," said Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, director of the Indian Health Service. "This IHS-VA

agreement will allow our federal facilities to work with the VA more closely as we implement this critical provision in the recently reauthorized Indian Health Care Improvement Act, passed as part of the Affordable Care Act."

The agreement between the two agencies marks an important partnering achievement for VA and the IHS and is consistent with the Administration's goal to increase access to care for Veterans.

To view the national agreement, please visit: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). To find out additional information about American Indian and Alaska Native Veteran programs, please visit: [www.va.gov/tribalgovernment](http://www.va.gov/tribalgovernment) and <http://www.ihs.gov/>.

## Care Giver Pool Volunteers Needed

Tribal Health is looking for volunteers for our Care Giver Pool. With this program we will be able to service our tribal elders in need of companionship, home health aides and Certified Nurses Assistants (CNA). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Tribal Health Department at (508) 477-6967 no later than March 1, 2013.

## Get Your Flu Shot Today

The Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit is offering flu shots to the tribal community at our clinic. The vaccine is offered free of charge for tribal members. Flu shots are available between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. most days. Please call (508) 477-6963 in advance to make sure staff is available to provide the shot.

The Flu - or influenza - is a serious but preventable illness. As you have likely heard in the news, the number of cases of the flu has increased dramatically across the United States in recent weeks. Flu cases have also been increasing in Indian Country. The good news is that there is a good match between the current flu strain and this

year's flu vaccine.

The flu is a respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that can easily spread to other people. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. Compared to the general U.S. population, Native Americans are more likely than others to get seriously ill or die from the flu.

The best way to prevent the flu is by getting vaccinated each year. Getting the flu vaccine can keep you from getting sick and keep you from spreading the flu to children and elders - those who can get very sick from flu. The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone - your whole family can get vaccinated.

## New IHS Dental Clinic Coming Soon

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit will soon provide dental services with the arrival of our new community Dentist Dr. Benjamin Warren DMD. Dr. Warren arrived in Mashpee on Tuesday, January 18, and is in the process of setting up his 2,000 square foot dental clinic in our modular building at 483 Great Neck Road South in Mashpee. The opening of the clinic will be announced in the near future. Please take a few minutes to read about Dr. Warren and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Dentistry Education: Dr. Warren earned his doctorate of Dental Medicine from the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry in Lexington in 2007, and he completed a general practice residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., and a Master of Business Administration degree from Marshall University in Huntington, W.V. Dr. Warren has worked short stints as a dentist in Kodiak, Alaska, and Kathmandu, Nepal, before spending the last 3 and a half years as a dentist with SEARHC / Mt. Edge-



cumbe Hospital in Sitka, AK. Awards & Honors: While at the University of Kentucky, Dr. Warren earned a Dean's Scholarship and the Dan Seaver Scholarship.

Special Interests: Dr. Warren's enjoys providing comprehensive dentistry, including but not limited to preventative dentistry, pediatric dentistry, oral medicine, oral surgery, prosthodontics, and endodontics. He also enjoys traveling, cooking, gardening, music, many outdoor activities such as canoeing, running and biking, and spending time with his wife and 1 year old son.

Your Health Care System is growing and we are excited to be creating a health care system to meet the needs of the Wampanoag Tribe. Dr. Warren is looking forward to meeting everyone.

Thank you,

Rita Gonsalves, RN, Health Systems Administrator

## Changes to Ministry

**F**irst, there is a name for our church, Mashpee Christian Fellowship. Second, we are temporarily meeting in the Fellowship Chapel at 395 Carriage Shop Road in Waquoit.

Our Sunday Evening Service is still held at 6:30 p.m. and our Sunday Morning Service is held at 10:30 a.m. on the 3rd Sunday of every month. Both services are held in the Fellowship Chapel. We will also have a Youth Ministry which will restart in March - updates to come.

Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m.  
*(3rd Sunday each month)*

## Old Indian Meeting House Donation

A grateful acknowledgement to 83-year-old Dr. Bennie Thompkins who now resides in Florida, for a donation of \$1,000 to the Old Indian Meeting House.

He has been friends with tribal member Chester Soliz, since dental school many years ago. Dr. Bennie spent many summers in Mashpee and loved the people and the atmosphere. As a token of his appreciation for the kindness and humility shown to him, he has given a wonderful gift to the Old Indian Meeting House. Dr. Bennie Thompkins has been known to say "You will never know how much it meant to me". Thanks Chet Soliz for sharing these words with us. Thanks to everyone who has donated to the Old Indian Meeting House. We count on donations for the events throughout the year. The Committee: Carol Lopez, Chairperson, Pauline Peters, Secretary, Anne Foxx, Treasurer, Ellen Hendricks, Emeritus, Anita "Mother Bear" Peters-Little, Jeanne Peters, Norman Dias and Trish Keliinui, Tribal Council Liaison.



## Developing a Work Opportunity Strategy

**R**ecently, I worked with Tribal Council to pass a resolution to address a serious problem within our Tribe and society at large: how do we support men and women who have been incarcerated so that they can have a successful future? It seems to me that with the possible exception of strong family support, the single most important factor is whether or not this person can find steady, reliable work.

This is an issue important not only to those who have been incarcerated, but their families and our tribal community as well. It has been demonstrated that employment is a critical factor reducing the likelihood of recidivism for an ex-offender.

Tribal members who have been previously incarcerated often face significant stigma and disadvantages because of their incarceration, and may not be hired even when they are the most qualified applicants for a job.

I believe that it is essential to develop a work opportunity strategy that includes having Tribe Government consider hiring ex-offender tribal members on equal footing with other qualified ap-

plicants. A work opportunity strategy will decrease the possibility of a formerly incarcerated tribal member from re-offending; which affects in many ways his or her life, his immediate family, and the Tribe.

In addition, the Tribe can also benefit because prisoners often develop skilled labor training while incarcerated and, in addition, due to their incarceration may have developed an ability to cope with stressful situations and environments which may benefit the Tribe as an employer.

We are not the only ones who think this is a worthy program. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) (at present pending congressional re-authorization) is a potential Federal tax credit incentive (up to \$2,400 per adult hired) that Congress provides to employers for hiring individuals from certain target groups who have consistently faced significant barriers to employment, such as an individual who has been convicted of a felony and has a hiring date which is not more than one year after the last date on which he was convicted or released from prison. The main objective of the program is to enable the targeted employee



to gradually move from economic dependency into self-sufficiency as they earn a steady income and become contributing taxpayers, while participating employers are compensated by being able to reduce their federal income tax liability. Here, the tribal member will also move toward becoming a stable member of his or her immediate family and a productive citizen of the Tribe.

I thank Tribal Council for approving this proposal so that every member of our Tribe may have the opportunity to be a self-sufficient, productive, healthy member of his or her family and our Tribal family.

By Aaron Tobey

## Trula Hire *(continued)*

Trula Hire completed her Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Arizona State University, for her Master of Business Administration (MBA). She is a seasoned professional with a record of success in nonprofit leadership and management, and business consultation services. Much of her career has been focused on advocating for American Indian communities to enhance equity, sustainability, and access to opportunities. She is devoted to tribal governments and organizations and nonprofits to develop strategies and strengthen their capabilities, effectiveness, and resource-base.

Trula has an extensive background in strategic planning, operations and financial management, and program and resource development. Trula has served as CEO for a number of nonprofits and a management consultant to tribal governments and enterprises and health care organizations.

Trula enjoys the outdoors and loves to hike, swim, run, and cycle.

## Executive Assistant Hired for Gaming

Tribal member Stephanie Sfiridis has been selected as the Tribal Gaming Authority's Executive Administrative Assistant. Stephanie is the daughter of tribal member Loretta Helme Sfiridis and granddaughter of the late Robert Helme. Stephanie has a B.A. in Communications and previously worked as the communications manager on the successful Together for Taunton campaign and has represented the Tribe during USET Week in Washington, D.C. Responsibilities in her new position in-



clude managing the day to day operations of the MWT Gaming Authority office in Taunton, preparing and organizing meetings, reports, meeting minutes, invoices, coordinating travel and serving as assistant to the MWTGA Officers. In addition, she will interact

with the public on behalf of the MWTGA, develop community relations with organizations and businesses in Taunton and the surrounding communities and work on special projects as needed.

## Native Youth in Science – Preserving Our Homelands

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe partnered with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Woods Hole Coastal and Marine Science Center (WHCMSC) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, to develop and deliver a summer science pilot program for Mashpee Wampanoag tribal youth in grades 6, 7, and 8. The program was developed by Renée Lopes-Pocknett, Director of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Education Department, and Monique Fordham, USGS National Tribal Liaison, and was guided by Chris Polloni, WHCMSC Outreach Coordinator. Troy Currence (WHCMSC) provided initial contacts and advice for the science staff about tribal customs. The program was designed to help reconnect Mashpee Wampanoag youth with the ecology and geology of their traditional homelands through classroom and field presentations, with an emphasis on hands-on experience. The program wove scientific information and data collection together with traditional ecological knowledge provided by tribal culture keepers, to ensure that information was provided in a context

that stressed the ancestral relationships between the Wampanoag people and the ecosystems of their homelands.

Titled "Native Youth in Science—Preserving Our Homelands," the summer 2012 pilot program strived to present science as a tool by which to protect and preserve the ecosystems and homelands of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. It also challenged the students to develop ways of thinking and being studious about their surroundings while achieving habits of mind and skills for understanding how science works.

The pilot program included 14 Mashpee Wampanoag youth and ran from the initial orientation session on July 9, 2012, to the closing ceremony on August 9, 2012. The tribal culture keepers for the program were Earl "Chiefie" Mills, Jr., Jessie "little doe" Baird, Jonathan Perry, Darrel Wixon, Kitty Hendricks, Tony Perry, Sr., and Ramona Peters. The culture keeper coordinator was Errol Hicks. The whole team functioned extremely well



*Mashpee Wampanoag tribal youth display their T-shirts and certificates at the Youth in Science program. The adults in the photograph include tribal culture keepers, and support staff.*

and laid a foundation for future collaboration on tribal educational initiatives.

In addition, the Tribe's Natural Resources Department, especially the Director, Quan Tobey, and Assistant Director, George "Chuckie" Green, were instrumental in the development and implementation of the program.



*Tribal youth preparing a traditional meal under the watchful eyes of Renée Lopes-Pocknett and Errol Hicks*

## Health Service Unit Honored with National Awards

**M**ashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit Team Honored at Nashville Award Ceremony on December 14th, 2012!

Over 60 nominations were submitted for The Nashville Area Directors award ceremony and I am delighted to announce the 2012 Team Award recipients in the following categories.

Special Act/Service Award (Team) This team assisted with Electronic Health Records deployment, implementation and updates... our unit now has easy access to the compilation of data for patients charts, reports, billing, referrals, and e-prescribing a lot of effort was brought forth to be fully



electronic. Computer templates were built, taxonomies reviewed, and end user trainings were completed. All staff members have completed security awareness training to protect beneficiaries personal health and other private information. This was a tremendous accomplishment to be the first Federal Site within the Indian Health Service to open fully electronic. The awardees are: Kathy Bird, Denise Cardoza, Suzanne Green, Lorraine Reels, Robyn Stamps, Wampsikuk Mills, Heather Rhoades.

Special Initiative Award ...Wampsikuk Mills & Kristine Foster HSPD-12 PIV ...Both are responsible for the PIV equipment and successful operation of the PIV

process at the Mashpee Service Unit (this is our Homeland Security Special Presidential Directive Initiative) this program fingerprints and issues our Federal ID badges..Both were responsible to meet with DHHS reviewer to verify our compliance with policies, procedures and directives....

Awards recognize the personal dedication, commitment and accomplishments toward the mission of the Nashville Area Indian Health Service. Join me in applauding these professionals.

Thank-you,

Rita Gonsalves  
Health Systems Administrator

## “Mashpee as I Remember It” by Aunt Joan Tavares Avant

Tribal traditional oral stories long or short can be persuasive and captivating. I know, I've grown up with plenty of scary and funny folklore teachings and love it. For some reason I believe every one that Grandma and others told me. Am I foolish or what? Sit down in your chair of comfort and read on, maybe, just maybe you have experienced some of the following.

Apparitions and supernatural sightings is another probable belief altogether, as I personally have experienced some. So hasn't Aunt Dinks (Roberta Avant Duarte). I'm sharing with you what she has written in her memoirs.

“Gramma said that every night just before dark she'd always pinch her sisters to keep them awake as she knew this hook-nosed Indian woman came and almost touched noses with her. The sisters would just laugh at them and drop off to sleep. Even as she told me the story later she said she could still recall

what she looked like. Maybe touching noses was some form of affection.

Another short unnerving mention. The family home was close to the Attaquin burial grounds. I can't help thinking that may be what caused her to see the apparition nightly as Gramma was what is called sensitive or psychic.

It brings to mind of Gramma telling of two or three relatives including herself of seeing this little black dog come trotting out of the swamp between Harriet Turner's (parsonage) and the Attaquin burial ground, adjacent to Thyra Pocknett's house. She said it was only on moonlight nights as they could see it plainly but when they stopped to pat it there was nothing solid to touch. It would just fade away. I saw it myself one moonlight night; only my dog was all white. It didn't dawn on me that it was an apparition until I went into the heavy bushes and I couldn't even hear a crackle of a bush which would be

normal.

It felt as though my hair stood on end as I sensed something abnormal. I really believe in apparitions and I don't believe it was the power of suggestion as some people like to say when explaining the supernatural sightings.” Those tribal members who live near the Parsonage may want to journey out on the next moon lit night or maybe on the full moon and you may be lucky enough to find one of the dogs, the black or white one or maybe both. Keep me posted cuz!



*Attaquin burial ground as it looks today.*

## Winter Social: Celebrating 40 Years

**T**he Wampanoag Indigenous Program would like to announce our annual winter social this February 23rd, 2013 at Plimoth Plantation from 2pm - 7pm. This social will be a little bit more special, because this is The Wampanoag Indigenous Program's 40th year of delivering ongoing education. We invite you to come to enjoy the socializing, singing, drumming, and our special 40th year presentation. The social

is also a fund-raiser. This year we decided to benefit a native college student. The funds raised will be credit onto their “book store” of their college. The student will have to present at the social, because we will be drawing their name from a hat at the end. The social will have a 50/50 Raffle, Native Artwork and Craft Raffle (donations for raffle appreciated), and Pot-Luck Dinner. Please bring your favorite dish and enjoy!

## Meeting House Events for 2013 Announced

**T**he Old Indian Meeting House Committee has finalized the 2013 schedule of events.

### 2013 Old Indian Meeting House Events

May 4.....*Wampanoag New Year*

July 7.....*Powwow Sunday*

July 21.....*Blind Joe Amos Sunday*

August 18.....*Richard Bourne Sunday*

September 28.....*Ancestor's Day*

November 23.....*Native American Thanksgiving*

December 15.....*Christmas Service*

## Youth Ball Planned

Keturah Peters, 2012 Pow Wow Princess, is organizing a Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Ball for kids between the ages of 13 and 18. The youth ball will be held on April 6, 2013 at the Navigator, 55 Ashumet Road in East Falmouth. Formal attire will be required. Additional details about the ball, awards categories will be coming soon.

Tickets will go on sale February 1. Advanced tickets will be \$15 and tickets at the door will be \$20. For more information about the event, tickets or to make a donation, please contact Pow Wow Princess Keturah Peters at [keturahpeters228@gmail.com](mailto:keturahpeters228@gmail.com) or call Joanne Frye at (508) 419-6017 ext. 600.