



Nashauonk Mittark™

© Copyright 2009



mashpeewampanoagtribe.com July 2009

DRUM BEAT

DEPARTMENTS

POWOW 2009

COMMUNITY

PROGRAMS



Word from the Chairman

Wuneekeesuq Nutawâm (Greetings to my Tribal Community)

As our Annual Powwow rapidly approaches, I want to acknowledge and thank some of the many people who have been taking time out of their own busy lives to help our tribe, our members and our community.

Over Memorial Day weekend, I was pleased to take part in the ribbon cutting ceremony for Mashpee's Old One Room Schoolhouse. Many thanks to all of the people who have worked so hard to make the restoration of the historic schoolhouse a reality.

That same day, the Town of Mashpee celebrated Memorial Day and its many residents who have served the United States in the Armed Forces. I was deeply honored to be a part of this observance, and grateful to be able to give a speech honoring all Mashpee Wampanoag Warriors who served in the U.S. Armed Forces to protect the United States of America. We currently have several Mashpee Wampanoag Warriors involved in military conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. I want to recognize all of them and pray that the Creator watches over them and protects them while they

(Continued on page 6)

Tribal Housing Plan Unveiled

By Paula Peters

After a year of public hearings, planning meetings, and an extensive tribal survey, the Housing Committee and the Seneca planning and development firm of Kennedy Wendel presented the results of a housing plan and feasibility study for the Mashpee Wampanoag Meetinghouse Road site. The study is for the development of infrastructure and land preparation and does not include plans for the actual housing units, but is considered a huge first step for the overall project.

"I feel really good about this plan because of the amount of community input that went into it," said Housing Director Alice Lopez during a public hearing to unveil the plan on May 30, 2009. "This really was developed by the community."

Adam Kennedy, a Seneca who is a principal in the design build firm of Kennedy Wendel hired to help the tribe develop the plan, presented an overview of the plan developed with guidance from the Housing Committee, which assigned committee member Joan Avant as a mentor to the project.

The land, donated to the tribe by Willowbend, is just less than 50 acres. While the ongoing issue of our land into trust application will factor into the ultimate development, even without that designation Kennedy said the project will have no problem moving forward under current zoning or as a 40-B affordable housing development.

Ms. Lopez said the 50-unit development would be largely single-family units and include eight duplexes for elderly tribal members. All will be managed as rental units by the tribal housing department.

(Continued on page 7)



Left to right;

- Housing Commission Treasurer: Barbara Harris*
- Consultant, Kennedy Wendel, LLC: Ellen Parker*
- Housing Commission Vice Chair: Paul Averett*
- Housing Commission: Marie Stone*
- Housing Commission Chairperson: Coreen Moore*
- Housing Commission: Joan Avant*
- Housing Commission Secretary: Douglas Charron*
- Consultant, Kennedy Wendel, LLC: Adam Kennedy*

Seated:

Wampanoag Housing Program Director: Alice Lopez

June

- 20 Patuxet Strawberry Thanksgiving, 10 am to 5 pm, Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, MA
- 22 Youth Cultural Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal grounds
- 23 Beading/Craft Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal office
- 23 Youth Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8 pm, Tribal Finance building
- 29 Youth Cultural Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal grounds
- 29 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 2:30 pm, Tribal office
- 30 Beading/Craft Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal office
- 30 Youth Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8 pm, Tribal Finance building

July

- 1 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 2:30 p.m. Tribal office
- 3-5 88th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow, Tribal Grounds, Grand Entry noon on July 3
- 6 Youth Cultural Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal grounds
- 7 Beading/Craft Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal office
- 7 Youth Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8 pm, Tribal Finance building
- 12 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 2:30 pm, Tribal office
- 13 Youth Cultural Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal grounds
- 14 Beading/Craft Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal office
- 14 Youth Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8 pm, Tribal Finance building
- 15 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 2:30 pm, Tribal office
- 18 Mohegan Powwow
- 20 Youth Cultural Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal grounds
- 21 Beading/Craft Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal office
- 21 Youth Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8 pm, Tribal Finance building
- 27 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 2:30 pm, Tribal office
- 27 Youth Cultural Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal grounds
- 28 Beading/Craft Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal office
- 28 Youth Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8 pm, Tribal Finance building
- 29 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 2:30 pm, Tribal office
- 31- Wampanoag Language Immersion Camp, Tribal Grounds

August

- 1 Tribal Elders Meeting
- 8-9 Narragansett Nation August Meeting/Green Corn Thanksgiving, Old Mill Road Route 2 Charlestown, RI 401-364-1100
- 9 General Membership Meeting, 2 pm

Mittark Staff

Editor-in-Chief

Cedric Cromwell

Contributing Editor

Paula Peters

Staff Writers

*Melissa Hill
Selena Jonas*

Design & Printing

Wakeby Fire & Associates

- The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Youth program is working with the youth to make regalia for the July 3rd, 4th and 5th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow. For more information, please contact Tribal Council Secretary Marie Stone at 1-508-477-0208.
- The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council is in the process of forming a Mashpee Wampanoag Museum Committee. The committee will be responsible for getting the Museum ready for opening. If you are interested in being nominated to the Museum committee, please contact Tribal Council Secretary Marie Stone at 1-508-477-0208.
- The Newsletter Committee is looking for new members who are interested in helping to gather information, write and edit the monthly Nashauonk Mittark. Interested candidates should have some experience in interviewing, writing and or editing. If you are interested in being nominated to the Newsletter Committee, please contact Tribal Council Secretary Marie Stone at 1-508-477-0208.
- Save the date! The 11th Annual Clara Louise Keliinui Memorial Golf Classic will be held on Monday, September 28, 2009 at the Quashnet Valley Country Club in Mashpee. The theme of this year's event, which benefits the tribal scholarship fund, will be "A Tribute to All Mashpee Wampanoag Families." Sponsorship opportunities and entry details will be available soon.
- Save the dates during the long weekend of October 10, 11, & 12 (also referred to as Columbus Day Weekend) for a Unity Gathering of the Wampanoag People of Mashpee. Plans are under way by members of our Traditional community to hold this event to help bring the tribe together and heal in the traditional way. More details will be available soon. Anyone interested in helping to coordinate the event should contact Hartman Deetz at mrhartmandeetz@yahoo.com.
- Congratulations to Nekeisha Ann Peters who has earned an Associates Degree in Nursing from Cape Cod Community College.
- Congratulations to Jaison Leslie Jonas Cramer upon graduation from Boston College, the Carroll School of Management, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management with a concentration in Economics.
- Congratulations to Jarrid Wilson-Bordun upon graduating from Barnstable High School. Jarrid will attend Cape Cod Community College in the Fall.
- Congratulations to Mikahail George Jonas Cramer who has graduated from Weston High School and will attend Northeastern University in the fall, majoring in Criminal Justice.
- Congratulations to Corey Hendricks upon graduating from Barnstable High School. Corey will be attending the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in the Fall.
- Congratulations to Brittney Atkins upon graduating from Barnstable High School. Brittney will be attending Cape Cod Community College in the fall.
- Congratulations to Shaelynn Williams-Gomes upon graduating from Barnstable High School. Shaelynn will be attending Cape Cod Community College in the fall.
- Congratulations to Jalisa Crayton upon graduating from Barnstable High School. Jalisa will be attending Cape Cod Community College in the fall.
- And lets not forget Kourtney Lebon Frye who just graduated from Falmouth High School. Kourtney, who is interested in becoming a pediatrician, plans on attending Cape Cod Community College in the Fall.
- Congratulations to tribal member Robert Hendricks and Kelly Mayne on their marriage on May 23rd 2009.
- And congratulations to Natasha Jonas and Charles Curtis on the birth of their new daughter, Talise Elizabeth Curtis, born on May 26th at Cape Cod Hospital, a healthy seven pound one ounce baby girl!
- Award winning documentary film maker Ann Makepeace of Makepeace Productions is working on a new film documenting the decline and renewal of the Wampanoag language. The telling of this story spans the past 400 years from European contact into the present. This film has been in production for the past year and a half and recently the idea of the film starting with the Wampanoag creation story came up. The language project, seeing this as a potentially sensitive area, wanted to refer the question back to the community at large. If anyone has any questions, comments or objections e-mail Wampanoag Language Reclamation Project President Hartman Deetz at mrhartmandeetz@yahoo.com. The question will be brought back in front of the tribal council at the next general membership meeting. To learn more about Makepeace Productions go to www.makepeaceproductions.com.

Keeping the Peace is Top Priority for Judiciary Committee

By Paula Peters

Toward the end of 2006 an Elder's Judiciary Committee was formed to help the Tribe address the many disputes and issues that we must now face as a sovereign nation. The small but determined group accepted the task knowing it would be a difficult, time consuming and an often thankless and misunderstood job, but one that had to be addressed thoughtfully and with consideration for the future of our Tribe.

"I'm doing this for my grandchildren," said Barbara Harris, who is vice-chairperson of the committee, which has recently submitted a proposal for a grant from ANA for \$1.2 million to fully establish a tribal judicial branch that is completely separate from Council.

Since the volunteer committee was established, they have put in countless hours, often meeting twice a week and arranging phone conferences as they researched other tribal courts and how they were developed. Ultimately they developed a Judicial Ordinance that was presented to Council and approved in October of 2008. "It was difficult and important work," said Vivian Bussiere, Chairperson of the committee. "It defines what our court system will look like and it had to be based on the constitution," she said.

Since the ordinance has been adopted, the committee has held several public comment meetings, including one at a General Body meeting in November of 2008 and also with the Housing Committee and Enrollment Committee. They want the Tribe to be fully aware of the work they are doing and how it will affect us in the future.

The most important feature of the ordinance is the ability to choose the "Peacemaker" path to resolution, rather than appear before a judge and spend money on lawyers.

"The Peacemaker is the traditional way of settling disputes. It is less formal, but is a healthier way to work out problems and to heal our tribe," said Pat Dotson, who is a member of the committee along with Wilson "Bud" Harding and Gordon Peters.

All agree that the Peacemaker option to conflict resolution is the most critical element of the future judicial system. It will involve training at least eight people to become peacemakers to ensure that each dispute has one man and one woman peacemaker, both of whom are impartial to each party. Their task will be to listen to the parties and try to help them heal the wounds between them. If it does not work, they will have to option to take the dispute to Tribal court. This process will not likely be fully in place for up to two years; however, the Tribal court is already functioning.

Pat says while it seems to be a slow and tedious process, "you can't build it overnight if you want to build it strong and sturdy and right."

Taking advantage of a two year, \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, the Tribal District Court is currently functioning with an initial judge, Rochelle Ducheneaux, a Sioux Tribal Judge hired last year. She is currently considering a dozen cases.

Consultant to Provide Help with Foster Care Issues

By Paula Peters

Maria Turner is no stranger to children and families in crisis. A social worker for nearly 15 years she is now a supervisor in the Cape and Islands office of the Department of Children and Families, formerly known as "DSS," the Department of Social Services. Last month the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe brought Ms. Turner on board as a consultant to provide guidance for the tribe within the DCF system and help the tribe take full advantage of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

ICWA, as it is called, was adopted by Congress in 1978 to provide laws that enable Indian children to be treated uniquely in the legal system, particularly when it comes to placement in foster care homes.

"We need to keep our kids safe in our community," said Ms. Turner who is also the chairperson of the Indian Education Committee in Mashpee. Ideally, she said all Wampanoag children who end up being cared for in the DCF system should be entitled to remain in their community and whenever possible be placed in a Native home where Native values are asserted. "That way they can learn to respect their traditional and cultural background. Our kids are used to participating in Native activities. If they end up outside of our community, they will lose their culture."

Tribal leaders have a keen focus on this issue reviewing every family case. As Council member Yvonne Avant supports the administrative needs of the department, Vice-Chairman Aaron Tobey, Secretary Marie Stone and Council member Cheryl Frye-Cromwell have attended mediation and court hearings working directly with Attorney Allison Lowe and Ms. Turner to support tribal families in crisis.

Presently more than 50 Mashpee Wampanoag children are in the care and custody of the state or have open cases with DCF, Ms. Turner said. Unfortunately, very few of them are placed in a Native environment.

Her top priority is to recruit more Native families that can provide foster care. The next priority will be to assure that the tribe has programs in place to support families experiencing problems and children suffering from neglect or lack of supervision including parenting education programs and substance abuse programs.

"Substance abuse typically plays a big role in these cases," said Ms. Turner who plans to work closely with the tribal Health Department and Judiciary to coordinate these services.

Anyone interested in becoming a foster parent or who has questions about ICWA may contact Ms. Turner by calling the tribal office at 508-477-0208 and leaving her a message.

Mashpee Wampanoag Judicial Ordinance Summary

The purpose of the ordinance includes: exerting jurisdiction, establishing a court system which provides for fair and impartial hearings, and to insure the inherent sovereignty of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Judiciary will be established through the appointment of three judges to the Tribal Supreme Court by the Tribal Council. The Tribal Judiciary shall consist of a Tribal Supreme Court, a District Court, a Peacemaker Court, and such lower courts and offices as may later be established. The Supreme Court shall consist of three judges and its jurisdiction shall include: appeals from the District Court, cases disputing the final results of a Tribal Council election, petitions necessary or appropriate in aid of its jurisdiction, and other actions as provided by Tribal law. The District Court shall hear and determine all civil and criminal matters arising within the jurisdiction of the Tribe. The Supreme Court shall establish written rules of procedure, evidence, and ethics for all courts of the Tribal Judiciary and may prescribe rules for attorney admissions and a bar association. The Judicial Committee shall advertise vacancies for Tribal Judge positions and recommend Judges for appointment by Tribal Council. Supreme Court Judges shall be appointed to staggered terms of eight years and the District Court Judges shall be appointed to a term of five years. Tribal Judges must meet the following qualifications: (1) be either an enrolled member of the Tribe or another Tribe, (2) be either an attorney, a graduate of an ABA approved law school, or a current or former tribal judge; (3) at least 25 years old; (4) be of ethical character; and (5) have no felony convictions or committed crimes of moral turpitude. Judges may be subject to discipline or removal, and may resign from office.

The Chief Judge of the Supreme Court shall hire a Court Clerk, and this individual must be: (1) at least 21 years old; (2) be of high moral character; (3) have a school diploma or equivalent; and (4) be computer literate. A party to an action before the District Court or Supreme Court shall have the right to an attorney at his or her own expense. The Supreme Court and District Court shall have the authority to admit attorneys to practice before the Judiciary.

The Peacemaker Court may hear civil disputes, but may not hear criminal cases or appeals. The guiding principles of the Peacemaker Court are harmony, non-coercion, community health, and sacred restorative justice. Individuals are requested to participate without an attorney and participation of the parties is voluntary. Any decision reached by the Peacemaker shall be final and may not be appealed. Peacemakers must meet the following qualifications: (1) be an individual who has the respect of the Tribal community; (2) at least 25 years old; (3) have never been convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude; (4) not a member of Tribal Council or a Tribal Judge; (5) and have a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Any person interested in obtaining the ordinance in its entirety may contact the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council or the Mashpee Wampanoag Elders Judiciary Committee.

Leslie Jonas Named 2009 Powwow Director

Leslie Jonas, a Mashpee Wampanoag member with over twenty-five years professional experience producing major events for Fortune 1000 corporations, has been named 2009 Powwow Director by Tribal Council. Jonas, who has also served the tribe as a communications strategist for the health department, brings both enthusiasm for creating outstanding events as well as a strong commitment to keeping our heritage alive in a culturally sensitive and appropriate fashion to her new role.

Ms. Jonas hopes that all attendees at the Powwow take the 2009 theme of “Honoring our Tribal Medicine” to heart and exercise the concept in our continued process of tribal healing. “Our Powwow tradition has been about bringing the entire Mashpee Wampanoag tribe together with extended family and friends as well as outside guests to celebrate and honor our Mother Earth, our Tribal Medicine, our Spiritual Guides: Chief Silent Drum Lopez and Medicine Man Earl Guy Cash, our Elders, our children and our land,” Jonas said. “We drum, pray, dance, sing, and eat in celebration and honor of our incredibly rich heritage here in Mashpee as ‘People of the First Light’.”

Ms. Jonas also stresses a commitment to increased security throughout Powwow weekend. “We are deploying increased security and safety for all guests and tribal members, 24 hours a day throughout the weekend,” Jonas explained. “We will enforce on-site camping registration and patrol areas thoroughly. There will be no tolerance of alcohol and drug use on our tribal grounds.”

MCNAA Spring Powwow

Tribal members enjoy social dances at the annual Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness Spring Planting Moon Powwow on Saturday, May 23rd. The event was held at the Marshfield fairgrounds.



Pairs dance the Rabbit Dance



*Savannah Maher, Mashpee Wampanoag
Fancy Dancer*



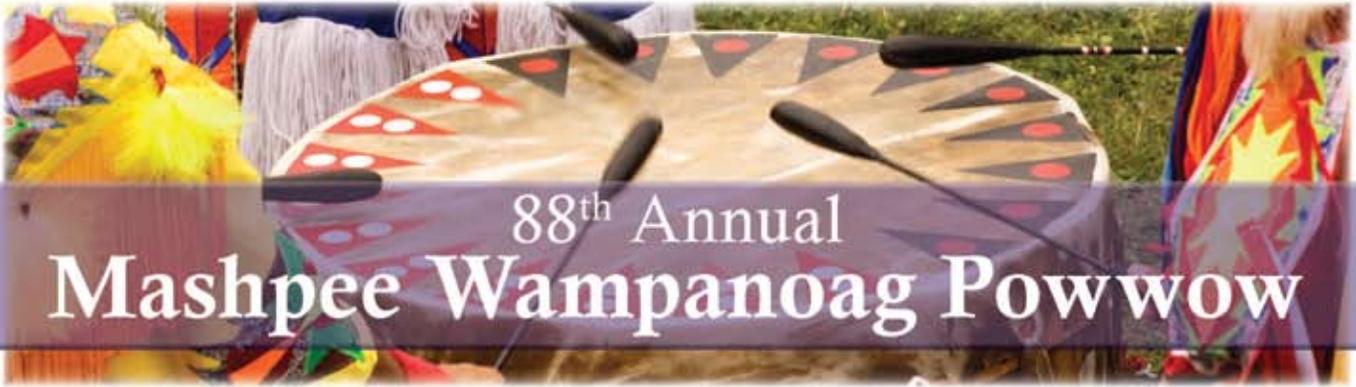
Snake Dance finale

Sun Shines on Youth Sobriety Powwow

By Melissa Hill

On Saturday, May 30th the sun came out as the Youth Council put on another successful Youth Sobriety Powwow. In between the singing and dancing, young Quentin Tobey demonstrated his amazing Kung Fu skills that impressed all that were watching. Also, Mariah Hendricks informed the attendees about a non-profit organization in which she is active. The organization, called “To Write Love on Her Arm” encourages youth to deal with depression and the pressures of drugs and alcohol in a positive, healthy manner. Furthermore, the family members of Joshua Lopes and Alicia A. Birchett, two young tribal members who recently passed on, gathered in the circle with friends and loved ones in order to take part in dancing to a song honoring their short lives. Food was provided along with activities that encouraged sobriety; an overall message to maintain a happy healthy tribal youth was heard throughout the day.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of edible South Shore magazine © Michael Hart 2009



88th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow



Honoring Tribal Medicine

July 3 - July 5, 2009

483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee



Grand Entry – Friday, July 3rd at Noon

Scheduled Events & Special Performances

- Warwick Gombey Troupe from Bermuda
- New England Birds of Prey
- Wampanoag Princess Contest
- Sly Fox Mishoon Race (*Saturday, July 4th – 6:00 a.m. at the Mashpee Pond*)
- Jazbo's Indigenous Jazz Ensemble
- Fire Ball Game (*Saturday, July 4th – Dusk*)
- Clam Bake (*Sunday, July 5th*)



Chief Vernon "Bunny" Lopez



Talia Landry
2008 Powwow Princess

Over \$30,000 in Prizes

Native American Art, Jewelry, Wampum, Gifts, Crafts, Dancing, Drumming, Food, Games & Clothing

Vendors by invitation only

Gates Open at 10:00 a.m.

Open to the Public

General Admission: \$8.00 Adults; \$6.00 Children & Elders

3 Day Pass: \$20.00 Adults; \$15.00 Children & Elders

Group Rates: Call (508) 477-0208 or email powwow@mwtribe.com

No Alcohol, No Drugs, No Pets

24 Hour Security

Head Man Dancer: Matt Boardley
Head Woman Dancer: Brittany Smith
Emcee: Annawon Weeden
Arena Director: David Weeden

Mashpee's One Room Schoolhouse Opens to Public

Chairman Cedric Cromwell participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the opening of Mashpee's One Room Schoolhouse to the public after a major restoration project. According to Tribal Council Member Gordon Harris, who is also Treasurer of the Mashpee One Room Schoolhouse Preservation Council, the Mashpee Women's Club took on the initial restoration project of Mashpee's One Room Schoolhouse also known as South Mashpee School/ Ockway Chapel in 1999. The Club raised more than \$50,000 and the initial restoration was completed in 2003.

In 2005, the Mashpee One Room Schoolhouse Preservation Council, Inc. (MOSPC) was formed to raise funds for the purpose of preservation, protection and perpetual care of Mashpee's One Room



Robert Richard, Selectman Wayne Taylor, Joan Brown, Earl Mills, Sr., Chairman Cedric Cromwell and Frank Lord cut the ribbon to mark the opening of Mashpee's Old One Room Schoolhouse



Maria Turner and Sherry Peters of the Mashpee VFW 5489 Women's Auxiliary celebrate Memorial Day on the steps of the newly dedicated Mashpee One Room Schoolhouse.

Schoolhouse. With the hard work and dedication of past and present MOSPC board members including several tribal members, donations from Mashpee High School students, the Quashnet School, guidance from the Mashpee Historical Commission and a generous grant of \$35,000 from the Town of Mashpee, the Schoolhouse was moved to its present location next to the Mashpee Archives building where the restoration project was completed. The Schoolhouse officially opened to the public on May 25th 2009.

(Word from the Chairman, continued from page 1)

are providing service to the United States of America. Mashpee Wampanoag Warriors have a deep and rich history in protecting both the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the United States of America. We honor, respect and love them and to all of them I say Aho!

I would also like to thank those in our community who are working so hard to mentor our youth and make sure that they are learning and experiencing our traditional ways. Whether it is through our Youth Powwow, Monday night Youth Cultural Group, or involvement in the language reclamation project, these opportunities are important not only to the youth who participate, but to the health of our tribe as a whole. I would especially like to thank tribal council for appropriating \$1500 to purchase materials including skins, sinew, scissors and leather punches for the creation of traditional regalia for our youth to wear during Powwow. I truly look forward to seeing our youth in their new regalia.

Again, I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who is volunteering their time and energy to our tribe. Working together, we will achieve great things for our people. I look forward to seeing you at Powwow!

Cedric Cromwell
Qaqemasq (Running Bear)



Earl Mills, Sr., Mashpee Selectman Wayne Taylor, Pastor Curtis Frye, Curtis Frye, Sr., Wilfred Lopez, Chairman Cedric Cromwell, and Danny Frye, Sr. celebrate Memorial Day.

Work Continues to Complete Meetinghouse

By Paula Peters

In May, the town of Mashpee approved funding from Community Preservation Act funds in the amount of \$250,000 for the tribe to continue work on the restoration of the Old Indian Meetinghouse.

C.H. Newton Builders Project Manager John Rodenhizer said phase two of the construction is nearly complete to finish the exterior and make the structure weather tight. Still left to be done are the laced ridge cap on the roof and some additional framing of the interior balcony, installation of wooden posts, installation of the exterior doors and the finish paint on the exterior.

“The recent funding will allow us to finish the exterior envelope and begin the interior finish,” said Mr. Rodenhizer.

The tribe still needs to raise more than \$400,000 for phase three to complete the project including the completion of the interior finish and landscaping.

“We realize that additional funding will be required and will assist all efforts to secure funding from all sources,” said Mr. Rodenhizer who expressed C.H. Newton’s commitment and pride in this project. “We look forward to resuming this project and restoring the use of a great building for the tribe!”

Anyone interested in making a contribution to the fund to complete the restoration of the Old Indian Meetinghouse may do so by sending a donation to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Post Office Box 1480, Mashpee, MA 02649.

Mashpee High Honors Wampanoag Graduates

By Melissa Hill

This past May several Wampanoag students who attend Mashpee High School were acknowledged and honored for the academic excellence they have carried out throughout their high school careers. Not only have they graduated from high school, but they also all wish to further their education in the future.

Seniors Unique Costa, Taed Dias, Mariah Hendricks, Amanda Andrade and Ikwe Mills were congratulated at the award ceremony hosted by Ebony Gunn with guest speakers Larry Mahan and Shani Turner. The students received great words of wisdom by Larry Mahan along with a plaque that had their names inscribed on them. Other tribal students, Leah Teixeira, Matt Lopes, Lauren Fermino and Rachael Fermino were not able to attend the ceremony but did graduate with the others on Saturday, June 6th.

In September Unique Costa and Amanda Andrade will be attending Cape Cod Community College. Taed Dias will attend St. Thomas Florida University. Ikwe Mills plans to attend St. Joseph’s College in New York. Rachael Fermino will be attending Lesley College in Boston

while Leah Teixeira will attend Pace University in New York. Matt Lopes, Mariah Hendricks and Lauren Fermino are presently undecided about where they will attend college, but do plan to further their education after high school.

Tribal Council Offers Reward through Mashpee Police

Tribal Council presented a \$1500 check to the Mashpee Police to be used as a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for a stabbing that occurred on Tribal Grounds in the early morning hours of July 6, 2008. Chairman Cedric Cromwell expressed a desire to not only solve this crime but to also build a stronger relationship with Mashpee and its police department. “Any act of violence on Tribal grounds will not be tolerated. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council is committed to working in cooperation with the Mashpee Police Department to find whoever is responsible for this crime,” Cromwell stated. “Tribal members as well as our neighbors should know that while this incident was an anomaly, we take it very seriously. Tribal Council will be putting new security measures in place to prevent this type of crime in the future.”

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the Mashpee Police.

(Tribal Housing Plan Unveiled, continued from page 1)

- Phase one, the development of road and utility infrastructure is expected to cost approximately \$338,000. Ms. Lopez is hopeful this phase will begin either late this year or early in 2010.
- Phase two will be the development of a \$1.1 million wastewater treatment facility that will return potable water to the aquifer.
- Phase three will be the initial earthwork for three of the elderly duplexes and three single-family units, which is expected to cost about \$52,000.
- Phase four will include the earthwork to prepare the remainder of the site which will preserve all existing trails and as much of the natural habitat as possible including “Noisy Hole.” This is expected to cost about \$621,500.

Mr. Kennedy said with contingencies included, the total cost of the development for all infrastructure will be about \$2.9 million.

Key indicators for the plan and feasibility study were the input from several tribal public hearings and a survey of more than 400 Mashpee Wampanoag households throughout New England. The results showed more than 72% of those surveyed qualified for low-income housing. Of those, 33% fell into the “extremely low” income range.

Speaking from his own experience as part of a gaming nation, Mr. Kennedy had sobering news regarding the economic state of Indian Country. He said our numbers are not out of the norm for Native communities.

“The Seneca are in the same shape,” he said. “We are just now starting to feel the economic impact of our casino revenue and it took seven to eight years to get there. It does take a while to get that money flowing back into your community.”

According to Ms. Lopez, the next step will be seeking funding.

“We hired a grant writer and planner to look at funding sources and time our funding requests according to our needs so we aren’t chasing money we don’t need yet,” she said.

At the same time, she said they are looking to enlist tribal professionals who have experience in designing the actual homes and structures that will be built on the property. She stressed that it will be difficult to estimate when the first Wampanoag family will actually occupy a home in the development because it will all depend on funding.

P.O. Box 1048
483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, MA 02649



In Our Own Words

Wôpanâak Language Immersion Camp is Coming!

The Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project will be holding its 3rd Annual Language Immersion Camp at 55 Acres at the Tribal Council from July 31st to August 2nd. The camp is limited to 60 participants and is on a first-come first-served basis. The deadline for application submission is July 15, 2009 and camp applications can be found both in the Tribal Council office and online at www.wlrp.org/Events.html. Applications may be mailed to the WLRP address at PO Box 2241, Mashpee, MA 02649. Postmark determines application date. For more information contact info@wlrp.org



WampWords

nupumukôm – I am dancing
nukusapus – I am hot
nukôhkut8n – I am thirsty
nupee - water

For Wampanoag Speakers – Here are a couple of phrases to translate and use among other speakers. Have fun with it!

Tyâqas kukat meech?
Ahqôpay pumukonat.

First Little Miss Wampanoag Crowned

By Melissa Hill

On Friday, May 29th our Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow Princess, Talia Landry, hosted the first annual Little Miss Wampanoag Pageant. Four contestants, Anna Hendricks, Dyani Barbosa, Chenoah Peters and Amiah Peters competed to be the first Little Miss Wampanoag. The event started off with a fashion show in which the girls showed off four beautiful dresses. It continued on to the talent portion of the show in which each young lady danced in full regalia to songs played by the Red Hawk Singers. Drumming continued as the judges came to a conclusion and, to wrap up the event, Chenoah Peters received a sash and flowers along with the title “Little Miss Wampanoag.”