



# Nashauonk Mittark™

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DRUM BEAT

DEPARTMENTS

POWWOW

COMMUNITY

OUR STORY

## Chairman's Message



As our annual Powwow rapidly approaches, I would like to personally invite you to join us as we honor our artisans and our tribal culture from July 3-5. Please bring your family and friends as we gather together to celebrate our Tribe - where we have been and where we are going.

And there is much to celebrate! Our plans to build and develop a resort-style casino in Fall River are moving forward. I hope that you will read my testimony to the Massachusetts State Senate explaining our Tribe's history, rights, and plans for the future. We have gathered enormous support for this project, and while there is much work to be done, we are headed in a very positive direction!

There is also much to celebrate in other areas of our Tribal life. I want to congratulate all of the Tribal students who are graduating from high school and college this year. The education of our children has been a major focus of our Tribe. Education will ensure a bright future not only for these accomplished students, but for the health of our Tribe as a whole as they use their knowledge and talents to benefit our Tribe moving forward. Congratulations to our students and their families!

I would like to recognize 2009 Powwow Princess Chelsie Miranda for representing the tribe as a positive ambassador at powwows, in the

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Chairman Cromwell Offers Testimony to MA Senate

On June 8, 2010, Chairman Cedric Cromwell submitted testimony to the Massachusetts State Senate in support of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's plans to develop a resort style casino in Fall River. Also testifying in strong support of the plan were Senator Joan Menard and Fall River Mayor Will Flanagan. Senate officials and Governor Patrick's administration testified that the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is the only Tribe in Massachusetts that is eligible for Indian Gaming under IGRA, and that expanded gaming legislation should take this into account.

The Senate Bill was scheduled to be debated and voted on after this month's Mittark went to press. Chairman Cromwell's testimony is below.

Wuneekeesuq Neetopak. Good day my friends. I want to thank Chairman Panagiotakos and members of the committee for allowing me to submit this testimony. I particularly want to praise the Senate for its thoughtful approach to expanded gaming. The process of consideration that has led to this draft bill has been open, transparent and respectful of all sides. Most importantly it has been focused on what is most important - namely, expanded economic development in the Commonwealth.

As Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, I want to express my strong support for the Senate's draft gaming legislation in particular, and the Commonwealth's efforts to expand casino gaming in general.

As you know, the Tribe has a proposal to develop a destination resort casino in Fall River. Before I outline some of the specifics of our proposal, I would like to offer a bit of background on the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, since there has been some confusion about various tribes.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, known as the People of the First Light, has inhabited Massachusetts for more than 12,000 years. Our ancestors greeted

explorers from Europe, and assisted the Pilgrims to survive their first harsh winters here. We treated European settlers with respect and human dignity and expected the same in return.

Unfortunately, the romanticized stories of that period do not tell the whole truth about the effect European settlement had on the tribe. For starters, European settlers brought with them foreign diseases that decimated our population. What's worse, in the years after 1620 our land was stripped away from us while a series of governments - colonial, state, and federal - presided over attempts to not only take our land, but remove any trace of us from this part of the country.

That legacy was underscored for me recently, when U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar visited Cape Cod to see firsthand the sites where our ancient ancestors first greeted the rising sun. The pristine beaches, once a sacred place for our tribal members, are now dominated by million dollar vacation homes and exclusive country clubs.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Flag Raising



The Mashpee Wampanoag Elders Council sponsored the raising of the Tribal Flag at the Mashpee Rotary on Memorial Day. Many Tribal families joined in remembrance of the Tribal Members who have given their lives in defense of the United States of America.

## Calendar of Events

**July 1 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Beading and Crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal (MWT) Headquarters

**July 3 to 5**

89th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow, Tribal Grounds, 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee

**July 4 – 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

Powwow Sunday Service, Old Indian Meetinghouse

**July 7 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Food Pantry, MWT Headquarters

**July 8 – 10:00 a.m.**

SHINE Workshop, MWT Headquarters

**July 8 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Beading and Crafts, MWT Headquarters

**July 12 – 5:30 p.m.**

Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club

**July 14 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Diabetes Workshop, MWT Headquarters

**July 15 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Beading and Crafts, MWT Headquarters

**July 18 – 9:00 a.m.**

Blind Joe Amos Sunday, Old Indian Meetinghouse

**July 19 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Food Pantry, MWT Headquarters

**July 19 – 5:30 p.m.**

Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club

**July 21 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Food Pantry, MWT Headquarters

**July 22 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Beading and Crafts, MWT Headquarter

**July 24 – 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Health Fair, MWT Headquarters

**July 26 – 5:30 p.m.**

Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club

**July 29 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Beading and Crafts, MWT Headquarters

**August 2 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Beading and Crafts, MWT Headquarters

**August 2 – 5:30 p.m.**

Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club

**August 4 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Food Pantry, MWT Headquarters

**August 5 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Beading and Crafts, MWT Headquarters

**August 7 – 6:00 p.m.**

Rumble on the Rez, MWT Grounds

**August 8 – 2:00 p.m.**

General Body Meeting, Mashpee High School Auditorium



- and Tyrone Reed. She will be attending Drexel University in Philadelphia to pursue a degree in screenwriting and play writing.
- \* Congratulations to **Kyle M. Foster** who graduated from Falmouth High School. He is the son of Charles “Bobby” Foster.
  - \* Congratulations to **Aquinnah Lopes-Pocknett** who graduated from Falmouth High School. He is the son of Buddy and Renee Pocknett.
  - \* **Marissa Sylvia**, who will be a senior this fall at Mashpee High School, was accepted into the College Horizons Program, a pre-college program for Native American high school students that prepares Native students for college. 99% of College Horizon Students are accepted to college. Marissa plans to attend college after graduation and pursue a program in the medical field. She is the daughter of Delscena Hicks and Wade Sylvia.
  - \* Congratulations to **Devan Frye**, who will be a junior this fall at Falmouth High, for making the Honor Roll and being awarded an Academic Achievement Award. He is the son of David “DJ” Frye.
  - \* Congratulations to **Chelsie Miranda**, 2009 Powwow Princess, who graduated from Dennis Yarmouth High School. Chelsie, a member of the National Honor Society, received several scholarships. She will major in social work at Temple University. Chelsie is the daughter of Laura Tobey Miranda and Warren Miranda.
  - \* Congratulations to **Taryn Medina** who graduated from Mashpee High School. She is the daughter of Melissa Pocknett and granddaughter of Bill and Donnella Pocknett. Taryn, a member of the National Honor Society, will attend Pace University in New York.
  - \* Any Tribal member wishing to use the Meetinghouse for an event should contact the Meetinghouse Committee, Carol Lopez, Chairperson, with details of your event, requested dates and time. Carol can be reached at 508-477-8388.
  - \* Be sure to check out the newly-designed Tribal Website [mashpeewampanoagtribe.com](http://mashpeewampanoagtribe.com) for Tribal news and updates!

## Special Mother’s Day Ceremony



A special Mother’s Day ceremony was held at the Meetinghouse to celebrate new mothers and honor our newest Clan Mothers. Clan Mothers are usually chosen by their families and represent the entire family by bringing advice, guidance, support and understanding to any situation. They bring peace and harmony to not only their families but other families by showing unconditional love, respect and honor for the Mashpee Wampanoag people and our ancestors. We have always valued our women for thousands of years and have empowered our Clan Mothers to appear on the scene to assist in one’s life. Mashpee is a unique place and it has always recognized that women have a very important role in our society. Given our Clan Mothers’ spiritual strength we honor them for their qualities and actions throughout the years. Our young mothers and their babies were also recognized and honored at the ceremony as we needed to show them the true meaning of becoming a Mashpee Wampanoag Clan Mother. Cherilyn Peters – Beaver Clan Mother and Myrna Nuey-Otter Clan Mother were honored at the Ceremony. Standing Clan Mothers Aunt Joan Avant, Amelia Bingham, and Jan Hendricks were recognized for their years of service to the community as Clan Mothers.

## CLK Golf Classic: A Message of Thanks

**T**he Clara Louise Keliinui Memorial Golf Classic is an event that served purposes beyond the initial intent for 11 consecutive seasons. With a mixed bag of joyful emotions, my family and I find it time to retire our annual event. The CLK Memorial Golf Classic was established in 1999, the year after the passing of my mother, Clara Louise Peters Keliinui. We could not think of a more appropriate way to pay tribute to her memory than establishing a golf tournament in her honor.

The cause would be simple, to raise money to support the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Scholarship Fund to support students seeking a college education. In all, over the years, we were able to assist upwards of 45 Tribal students with humble financial assistance. My goal was to continue the event in her honor for 10 years. Admittedly, it became a challenge when the weather would not cooperate. We experienced a 3-year stretch of having to reschedule the date due to what seemed like monsoon rains.... In my mind, those years of weather adversity were my mother's way of lovingly testing my intestinal fortitude. But, despite all challenges, we managed to host the golf tournament each year.

Personally, as a woman who had lost her best friend to lung cancer, organizing such an event was very therapeutic and helped ease the enormous pain. What I did not expect was the growth the event would experience. Over the years, golfers who had simply learned of the golf tournament by word of mouth became annual attendees... and they brought two friends and so on and so on.



Trish Keliinui at CLK Memorial Golf Classic

As the tournament director, I gained the pleasure of meeting people who had shared memories of my mother from long ago as well as gaining new friends who were intrigued about the woman who had the ability to bring together such an eclectic group of golfers. Certainly, the focus of the event was to also highlight the accomplishments of our Tribal youth, and whenever possible, share our Tribal history with the participants.



To the Tobey family, the Hendricks, Ben and Patty Perry, the Louds, McGraths, Mackins, the Smith groups from Worcester, the Walton foursome from Rhode Island and countless others... thank you for being devoted friends to our golf tournament year after year.

To the dedicated sponsors and donors to our event, thank you for making our tournament possible. And to the host golf course and staff at Quashnet Valley Country Club (QVCC), there is a reason our modest golf course here in Mashpee is known as one of the more humbling tracks on Cape Cod. My family and I consider QVCC a home away from home and I could not have been more pleased to hold an event in memory of my mother anyplace else for 11 straight years.

It has been my true pleasure working with the Tribal Council over the years and garnering their support and confidence that the tournament would be successful.

The one thing I will keep in mind is golfers never really "retire"... so while we may be considering this a retirement, perhaps it best to say, until we meet again!!!

By Trish Keliinui

## Youth Sobriety Powwow

**T**his year's Youth Sobriety Powwow was held in honor and memory of tribal member Elisha "Clay Ash" Johnson. Elisha lost her life at a young age from cancer. Elisha was a very strong spirited youth with lots of energy and beauty. She was a young mother and an academic achiever. She was an inspiration to many people of all ages and reminds everyone to always stay connected to their Wampanoag Culture and to be a positive role model and live life to the fullest. We will always continue to be blessed to have the opportunity to remember the strength and love Elisha portrayed in her soft joyful personality. We miss her dearly and the Youth Council was honored to dedicate this year's Youth Sobriety Powwow to her and her family. The event was attended by over 100 tribal members and the Youth Committee served food throughout the day.



### Head Dancers

Kevin Frye  
and Keturah Peters  
(pictured left)

### Junior Head Dancers

Iyannough Fermino  
and Chenoa Peters

## A Message from the Vice-Chairman

Dear Constituents of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe:

As Vice-Chairman of the Tribal Council, one of my responsibilities is to address inquiries from all of you regarding issues that affect the well being of the Tribe. In that capacity, I have received questions and concerns from many of you about a website posted anonymously on the internet on which a number of false accusations have been made about the Tribal Council, about individual members of the Council, and about the Tribe's efforts to pursue the building of a destination resort casino for the good of the entire Tribe. Because the website is anonymous and no one has been willing to sign his or her name to the statements made on it, I've been unable to identify or speak with the author of those false claims.

I fully recognize and respect the right of anyone to criticize me or other elected tribal leaders, to be harsh in their criticism, to ask difficult questions and to disagree with decisions made. Yet, when an unidentified person uses the internet to disseminate false statements that the Tribe's leaders are engaged in corruption and are under investigation, I become very suspicious of his or her intent and motivation.

I invite and welcome whoever is making these statements to come forward and meet with me so that we can have an open discussion about the true facts, and hopefully put an end to the nonsense.

With respect,

Aaron Tobey, Jr., Vice Chairman  
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council  
(508) 982-3290 (cell)  
(508) 477-0208 (office)



## Tribal Housing Commission Announces Plans for Housing Development

To fulfill their commitment to provide safe, affordable housing for Tribal Members, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Housing Commission is undertaking the development of "Wampanoag Village," a unique 52-unit rental affordable housing community on an approximately 46-acre site owned by the Tribe, located off of Meetinghouse Road in Mashpee. The project is expected to provide a combination of single and duplex housing types for low income members of the community, with a key focus on providing safe housing options for the community.

The project has been carefully designed with input from numerous community members and will provide amenities and gathering places for residents, including a community green, community gardens and a location for a future community center.

To fulfill this important affordable housing mandate, the Housing Commission anticipates project planning and permitting to continue during 2010 with infrastructure improvements and project construction to commence shortly thereafter.

### Project Site:

The site is located in an area that has both cultural and historic significance for the Tribe and many Tribal members live nearby. The location is well-suited for the project, situated on an approximately 46-acre site off of Meetinghouse Road. Access to the housing units will be provided by a primary entrance drive off of Meetinghouse Road with several cul-de-sacs spurring off of this entrance drive. The site itself currently consists of wooded areas, crisscrossed by trails and a rough roadway layout that was developed in conjunction with a previous development that was not constructed by a prior owner of the site. The conceptual design for the project has been carefully conceived to consolidate the impact of the development, thereby minimizing its "footprint", while avoiding impacts to wetland and other sensitive areas. Significant portions of the site will be maintained as open space, which with the existing network of nature trails, will provide for passive recreational opportunities for the community. The wetlands on the site have previously been identified and are expected to be confirmed by the Mashpee Conservation Commission in their approval of an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) Plan. As noted, the residential neighborhood surrounding the project site is home to numerous members of the Tribe

as well as other Mashpee residents. The location and proximity to adjacent roadways and neighborhoods is clearly shown in the enclosed locus aerial photograph plan.

### Project Benefits:

The project will fulfill several important goals for the Housing Commission in providing affordable housing options for low income community members, particularly. The project will also foster a further sense of community, planned for community gatherings, as reflected in the project design.

In addition to fulfilling the critical affordable housing need that the completion of the project will accomplish, it will also provide several important benefits to the Town of Mashpee. Mashpee itself has a shortage of affordable housing inventory and, significantly, consistent with the planned permitting of the project, all of the 52 units within the project are expected to count towards the Town's subsidized housing inventory maintained by the State, thereby increasing Mashpee's percentage of affordable housing closer to the 10% goal, based on the most recent census figures. In addition, the project will lessen pressure on the Town's other affordable housing developments in the Town, as it is well-recognized that the Town and the surrounding areas on the Cape are underserved in the supply of moderately priced and affordable rental units. The project will also preserve a significant area of open space, create recreational opportunities and instill a sense of community in providing for gathering places and venues throughout the project. Further, the design of the project will result in minimal impact to the town's drinking water supplies and other infrastructure, while providing new annual tax revenues to the Town, in addition to one-time building and other municipal fees. The project will also have a direct benefit in the creation of much-needed employment opportunities available to local residents - the construction of the project is anticipated to create a number of construction jobs to benefit the local economy.

### Project Permitting:

In order to expedite the completion of this important project, the Tribe, a Federally-Recognized Sovereign Tribe, at this time is anticipating voluntarily submitting to jurisdiction of review pursuant to Chapter 40B of the Massachusetts General Laws for the limited purposes of permitting this project. Should circumstances materially change, the

Tribe may pursue alternative permitting strategies in order to accomplish the project while maintaining the sovereign rights of the Tribe.

### Next Steps:

The Housing Commission's Project Team has consulted informally with Town officials and will continue to do so prior to filing for site eligibility approval. The project is proposed to be funded, in part, with a HUD Indian Housing Block Grant. Following the site approval process, the development team is anticipating filing for a comprehensive permit for the project with the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals. Throughout this process the Housing Commission will consider all input received from state and local officials and attempt to address as many of the suggestions and comments as possible, while keeping the project economically feasible and maintaining the community's own independent interests.

The Housing Commission's development team looks forward to continuing to work cooperatively with the Town of Mashpee in the successful development of Wampanoag Village to fulfill these important community housing goals.

## Health Department Notes



- \* Tribal Health is sponsoring a SHINE Workshop on July 8th at 10:00 a.m. in the Main Tribal Council Building. Please contact Contract Health Service for more information.
- \* A Diabetes Workshop will be held on July 14th at 6:00 p.m. at Tribal Headquarters. All are welcome.
- \* A Health Fair will be held July 24th - 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Tribal Headquarters. A Dana Farber Cancer Institute Mobile Van will be there performing mammograms, prostate, eye and ear screenings. Please call tribal health to sign up for the screenings.

## Director of Venezuelan Indigenous Health Project Visits Mashpee

**D**r. Noly Fernandez of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela recently visited the Mashpee Health Center. Dr. Noly Fernandez is a Venezuelan Physician from the Wayuu Indigenous People and the National Director of the Venezuelan Indigenous Health Department.

Health Director Rita Gonsalves hosted Dr. Noly Fernandez for a day. During the day, Dr. Noly Fernandez met with Chief Silent Drum who showed her his beautiful garden and artwork, and Tribal members Buddy Pocknett and Norman Dias who showed her the shorelines and shell fishing grounds.

She also visited the cemetery and meetinghouse. Dr. Noly Fernandez was very appreciative and mentioned that Mashpee had many similar ways to the Wayuu Indigenous People. She would love to come back to visit for a longer period. We were very blessed to have her visit the tribe.

Dr. Noly Fernandez was a rural doctor and health coordinator in her native Zulia before being appointed as National Director in 2004. As National Director, she developed the Inter-Cultural Health Program and implemented the first ever integration of traditional indigenous knowledge and western medicine in a

government program. Presently, she is the President of the Inter-Cultural Health Commission of the Andean Community of Nations.



Dr. Noly Fernandez

## Women's Talking Circle

**D**o you need support? Every day stress becoming too hard to deal with? Feeling disconnected? Want to re-connect? Want to have time for yourself?

The Women's Talking Circle is for you. Where you can have support from others in a quiet, confidential space.

**When:** Every fourth (4th) Friday of the Month

**Where:** Mashpee Wampanoag Counseling Center –  
213 Sampson Mill Road  
Mashpee, MA 02649

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Please call the Tribal Health Office for more information at (508) 477-0409 or (508) 776-4529.

**Please come and join the Women's Talking Circle - We welcome you!!**

## Four-Week Teen Group

Four-week teen group for girls ages 13 to 18 years old.

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

**Dates:** July 2, 9, 16, and 23

**Location:** Mashpee Wampanoag Counseling Center  
213 Sampson Mill Road  
Mashpee, MA 02649

**Come out and share – We hope you'll join us!!!!!!**

For more information, please call the Tribal Health Department at (508) 477-0209 or Pumukqien Collins at (508) 776-4529.

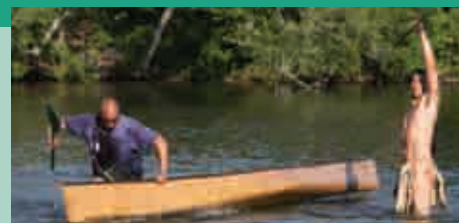
## Powwow: Sly Fox Muhsh8n Race

Powwow Committee Chair Sherry Pocknett remembers when the powwow was called a homecoming, where many of our people would come together and create games like races and competitions. In an interest to bring back some of the "ol" school powwow traditions, Sherry revived a canoe race known in Wôpanâak as the Muhsh8n race.

The Muhsh8n race has quickly become a popular event with more and more Wamps and indigenous people coming out at dawn every 4th of July to toss their canoes into the Mashpee Wakeby Pond and paddle in teams of two across to Lowell Reservation to collect a quahog shell. Once a team has retrieved the quahog shell, they paddle back as quickly as they can say chowda.

2010 will be the third year that the Sly Fox Muhsh8n race will have taken place during the powwow. Since it began, it's something that the tribe looks forward to each year.

Sherry and the Powwow Committee would like to invite every Wamp to pull their dusty Muhsh8n out of the shed and show up with a partner by 6 a.m. this 4th of July. The race includes teams of 2 women



per canoe for the women's race and 2 men per canoe for the men's race. No racing canoes allowed.

Registration is \$20.00 per person and participants should see the T-shirts...they're hot!

If the first place prize of \$500 doesn't inspire enough of a competitive desire to get racers up and get there by 6 a.m. to paddle, then the mere idea of standing on the edge of the water at dawn with a cheering, tribal family is good enough reason for me.

See you down the pond Bird!

By Leslie Jonas



## Chairman Cromwell Offers Testimony to MA Senate *(continued)*

I will not cite the long history of injustice that was brought on our people as the result of European colonization and expansion. But I mention it only to emphasize the strong determination and perseverance that it took for our people to remain in our homeland and maintain a strong tribal community, even as we were surrounded by increasing development.

Despite this legacy, the people of my tribe are loyal citizens of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. But they are also citizens of a sovereign tribal nation.

In 2007, after a 30-year application process, and having painstakingly documented our tribal history, the Federal Government, through the U.S. Department of the Interior recognized the Mashpee Wampanoag as one of only two federally recognized Indian tribes in Massachusetts. The effect of the 2007 decision was not that the Tribe was “created” but rather that the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe exists today as a tribe and has existed as such time immemorial.

Despite this recognition, when I was elected Tribal Chairman in 2009, we were a tribe without a reservation and with little hope of fostering economic growth to provide governmental services to our members and expand the quality of life for our people.

Today, many members of our tribe are unable to find housing within our own ancestral territory – one of the most expensive markets in the country. Unemployment is high. We struggle with the many health issues that go along with high rates of poverty – heart disease, asthma, diabetes, cancer, teenage pregnancy, and substance abuse. Many of our tribal members rely on state assistance – through unemployment insurance, transitional assistance, Mass Health, and other programs – just to survive.

The only solution to these challenges is a long-term strategy to create economic opportunity, and self-sufficiency for the tribe and to break the cycle of poverty for its people. The ability to develop and operate a resort style casino will not only provide much needed jobs for tribal members, but will also provide the resources necessary for the tribal government to take care of our own people who need assistance through various tribal programs, such as housing, healthcare and jobs skills training.

In 2009, I ran for election as Chairman of my Tribe as part of a reform slate to rid our tribe of corruption and bring transparency and sound business practices to our tribal government. When the new leadership took office, we examined all of the decisions that the previous administration made, including the proposal to locate a casino in Middleboro. We conducted our appropriate due diligence and ultimately concluded that Fall River would be a better location for the Casino.

Today, the Tribe has reached an agreement with the City of Fall River to develop an integrated resort casino on the outskirts of Fall River. If the legislature approves expanded gaming, we intend to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in the development which includes a casino, three hotels, convention facilities, a spa, high-end shopping and an indoor waterpark. It will be a destination for the whole family.

We have the strong support of the Mayor of Fall River and broad support in the community, as evidenced by a recent poll that concluded that nearly 2/3rds of Fall River residents support the development. The proposed site in Fall River is well-suited to development in that it is easily accessible from major routes, and has good infrastructure surrounding it. Most importantly however, Fall River is an area that is much in need of the economic stimulus that a resort casino can provide.

The Tribe also has the financial backing of Arkana Limited, a wholly-owned affiliate of Malaysian investment group Kien Huat. Kien Huat affiliates financed the startups of Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Connecticut in 1992 and the Seneca Niagara Casino in New York in 2002. They are a multi-billion dollar organization with vast experience developing and operating resort casinos.

The revenues generated by our proposed destination resort casino will provide for housing, education and health care for our people as well as the diversification of our economic development strategy so that we may better provide for our people.

For the city of Fall River, the casino will mean the creation of thousands of construction jobs immediately, and thousands of permanent jobs once the resort is up and operating. The jobs will be blue collar and white collar jobs in diverse industries including hospitality, gaming, food and beverage etc. They are the kinds of jobs that are so desper-

ately needed by the residents of Fall River who are struggling to find work.

While on the subject of jobs, I know that much has been said about the likelihood that destination resort casinos could displace workers at the state’s current racetracks, and at the Raynham/Taunton track in particular. With that possibility in mind, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is prepared to offer employment to any worker at the Raynham/Taunton facility who loses their job because of changes in the state’s gaming laws.

In addition to employment opportunities, the development will also bring much needed revenue to the City of Fall River, to fund education, infrastructure improvements and crime prevention – all critical issues facing the City. Finally, for the Commonwealth, our proposal will mean economic development for a part of the state that is in desperate need.

Much has been written and said about the subject of Indian land in trust. Let me briefly explain. Currently, the Mashpee Wampanoag is the only federally recognized tribe in Massachusetts that does not have an initial reservation. The Aquinnah Tribe, the other federally recognized tribe, has been granted an initial reservation on Martha’s Vineyard, though they have waived the right to game on that reservation.

Presently, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has an application before the Bureau of Indian Affairs to take land into trust as an initial reservation. Once the land is placed into trust, our Tribe will have certain gaming rights as provided by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, or IGRA. According to IGRA, federally recognized tribes “have the exclusive right to regulate gaming activity on Indian lands.”

As I am sure you also know, in February 2009, the Supreme Court decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar* caused uncertainty as to the federal government’s ability to take land into trust for certain tribes. Since then, we, along with hundreds of other tribes from across the country, have been working with the Obama Administration and Congress to end this uncertainty. We are very encouraged by legislation introduced in both the US Senate and House to resolve this situation and potential opportunities to fix this administratively.

The bottom line is this – once we secure a federal land base, we will

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Senate Testimony *(continued)*

inevitably have sovereign rights to game on Indian land. But we would strongly prefer to work with the state now to adopt a comprehensive approach to statewide gaming that includes the Tribe, and allows us to negotiate a contract with the State now, and proceed to put shovels in the ground immediately.

We are very encouraged that both versions of the gaming bill currently pending include specific recognition of the special rights we have because we are a federally recognized tribe, and we were very pleased that the Senate bill included provisions related to our proposal in Fall River.

I am also pleased to have the support of Senator Menard who has been a strong leader not only on this issue, but on all the issues affecting the Tribe and its people. Finally, I want to express how excited we are to be working with Mayor Will Flanagan. Mayor Flanagan is committed to charting a course for economic growth in Fall River that will bring real relief sooner rather than later. He's in a rush to get his people back to work, and so are we. With the support of our financial backers, we stand ready to put shovels in the ground as soon possible

We look forward to working with the Commonwealth as it considers expanded gaming and as we move forward with our project. It will be a great project for the Tribe, a great project for Fall River, and a great project for the Commonwealth.

On behalf of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, I thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony, and look forward to a close working relationship moving forward.

## High School Seniors Recognition Ceremony



*Aquinmah Lopes-Pocknett and Kyle M. Foster at Falmouth High Graduation*

entering an accredited college this fall. A letter and application requirements have been mailed out to tribal students ages 16-20. If you have not received that mailing please contact the education committee. The deadline for the scholarship is July 16 and scholarships will be awarded the second week of August.

Congratulations to all of our graduates! We are so proud of your accomplishment!

## Council Passes Resolution on Fishing and Hunting Rights

In April, Tribal Council passed a resolution (below) clarifying the rights of enrolled Tribal Members to exercise their aboriginal fishing and hunting rights. Please note that all enrolled Tribal Members, including children, are eligible to receive a Tribal ID.

### FISHING, HUNTING AND GATHERING RIGHTS POLICY OF THE MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE

**WHEREAS**, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (Tribe) is a federally recognized Indian tribe with a duly-enacted Constitution, and the governing body of the Tribe is known as the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council (Tribal Council); and

**WHEREAS**, Article VI, Section 2.A., of the Constitution further provides that the Tribal Council is empowered to promote and protect the health, peace, morals, education, political integrity, economic security, and general welfare of the Tribe and its members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribe and its members have an aboriginal and treaty-recognized right to fish, hunt and gather for, among other things, the sustenance of their families through personal consumption and commercial distribution of their personal take; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribe regulates fishing, hunting and gathering/foraging practices by its Tribal members in order to protect and manage fish, game and wildlife resources which contribute to the sustenance of Tribal members and as an aspect of the Tribe's stewardship over fish, game and wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribe deems it essential to the health, morals, education, economic welfare, and efficient governance of the Tribe and its members to express a policy to regulate the exercise of fishing, hunting and gathering rights by enrolled Tribal members in order to protect their source of sustenance and their traditional and customary way of living since aboriginal times, and to foster and enhance the Tribe's stewardship over fish, game and wildlife.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Tribal Council hereby authorizes only designated enrolled members of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to exercise the Tribe's fishing, hunting and gathering rights; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Tribal Council instructs any authorized designated enrolled Tribal member, who exercises such right, must physically possess his or her Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal identification card prior to exercising such privilege; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Tribal Council hereby restricts the use of a Spousal Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal identification card from serving as authorization for a non-enrolled member spouse to claim or attempt to exercise such fishing, hunting or gathering rights, because only enrolled Tribal members are authorized to exercise such rights; the use of the Spousal card in such a way is an impermissible and unauthorized use of the card; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, the Tribal Council states a policy that only authorized enrolled Tribal members are permitted to exercise the Tribe's fishing, hunting and gathering rights and no person, including a non-Tribal member spouse, is authorized to claim or exercise such right and if such a person makes such a claim or attempts to exercise such a right, then such person is subject to applicable civil and criminal laws.

Effective immediately and until revoked or modified by the Tribal Council, pursuant to the authority vested in the Tribal Council pursuant to Article VI, Section 2.a. of the Constitution of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. All resolutions or parts of resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are repealed.

The first Mashpee Wampanoag Seniors Recognition Ceremony will be held during this year's 2010 powwow. All graduates from high school and GED programs will be recognized on Saturday, July 3 and Sunday, July 4.

In order to compile a complete list of students, we need your help. If you, or someone you know is completing high school or the equivalent this year, please email Nitanah Hicks [nitanahicks@gmail.com](mailto:nitanahicks@gmail.com), Cheryl Frye-Cromwell [cfrye-cromwell@mwtribe.com](mailto:cfrye-cromwell@mwtribe.com), or Gail Hill [ghill@mwtribe.com](mailto:ghill@mwtribe.com), or leave a message on the education committee voicemail at (508)477-0208 extension 248. Please leave the proper spelling of the student's name and the school or program being completed.

In addition to the recognition ceremony we are glad to announce that we will be awarding five scholarships in the amount of \$1,500.00 each to tribal members who are entering an accredited college this fall. A letter and application requirements have been mailed out to tribal students ages 16-20. If you have not received that mailing please contact the education committee. The deadline for the scholarship is July 16 and scholarships will be awarded the second week of August.

Congratulations to all of our graduates! We are so proud of your accomplishment!



Nashauonk  
Mittark™

483 Great Neck Road South  
Mashpee, MA 02649

## OUR STORY

### Our Story: As Told by Paula Peters

**M**any of our young people think of our annual powwow as always taking place on the tribal grounds off Great Neck Road South. It has become such a tradition it's hard to imagine Powwow being held anywhere else, but this news brief from a tribal newsletter more than three decades old proves otherwise. Seems in 1977 the tribe was preparing to hold our annual cultural event on Collins lot. Craft vendors circled the field where drumming and dancing took place, and in the far left corner under a stand of scrub oak, beer was sold. The location was convenient to the Samuel G. Davis school rest rooms and penny candy at Ockry's Trading Post across the street and the old Fire House in the shadow of Delscena's Place. Dancers took a break from the hot sun by running across the American Legion parking lot (now Dunkin Donuts) and down the wooded path to the pond for a dip.

*Vol. 1, Issue 1 of Mittark was published in the spring of 1977 and included the following news item reproduced as it was printed in that edition:*

#### **Pow Wow**

Loretta Jones, Chairwoman of the Pow Wow Committee is now well underway in planning and organizing events for the annual Mashpee Wampanoag Pow Wow. The Pow Wow will be held on Collins Lot on July 2, 3, and 4. Native Americans interested in performing, concession stands or volunteering service, contact Loretta at (617) 477-9442 or write to the Pow Wow Committee in care of the Wampanoag Tribal Council Office, Route 130, Mashpee, Mass, 02649. Other Pow Wow features are a bean supper and the annual clambake for which reservations are requested. Loretta also informs us that advertising space is now being sold for the Pow Wow programs.

*Anyone who is interested in sharing a story in the "Our Story" column that is significant to Mashpee Wampanoag history or our heritage, recent or long past, should contact the newsletter committee by calling the tribal office at 508-477-0208 and leaving a message, or by sending an email to [sjonas@mwttribe.com](mailto:sjonas@mwttribe.com).*

### Chairman's Message (continued)

community and as the Vice Chair of the Youth Tribal Council during the last year. It has been a pleasure to have her as the Powwow Princess.

I am also very proud of our Tribal Committees and staff for their hard work in bringing much-needed programs and services to Tribal Members, in the areas of housing, health care, education, Elders, youth, and job training. To that end, the Tribal Council and I are in the process of expanding our ability to provide services by identifying a location for an office in New Bedford so we can better serve the large number of Tribal Members who live in that area. I have heard from many Tribal Members that this is greatly needed, and I look forward to announcing more concrete plans about this office in the near future.

As you can see, there is so much for our Tribe to be proud of. I look forward to joining with you during Powwow to celebrate this progress.

Kataputumuw;  
Qaqeemasq (Running Bear)