



Nashauonk Mittark™



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March 2016

DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY

Chairman's Column



Dear Tribal Family,

Our sovereignty is under attack! An anti-Tribe group based in East Taunton, financed by the Chicago-based casino developer Neil Bluhm, filed a lawsuit that seeks to take our land from us. It's a desperate, transparent ploy by Neil Bluhm to pressure the Massachusetts Gaming Commission into awarding a commercial casino license for their proposed project in Brockton.

The suit was filed in Federal District Court against the United States Department of Interior, claiming the Secretary of Interior had no authority to take land in trust on behalf of our Tribe under the Indian Reorganization Act.

The news media has been reporting this as if this was all about casinos. Of course, it is about a casino in the mind of Neil Bluhm and his Mass Gaming and Entertainment business partners. But it goes deeper than that.

The lawsuit says nothing about our casino.

What it does do is challenge the very idea of returning stolen ancestral homelands to Tribes. This lawsuit is an attack on the sovereignty of Indigenous People everywhere!

Members of this anti-Tribe group in East Taunton have ties to the Citizens Equal Rights Alliance (CERA), a well-known organization that fights tribes all across the country over issues involving land acquisition and federal Indian policy.

As Indian Country Today described this organization, "CERA and its sister (organization), Citizens Equal Rights Foundation (CERF), are the foremost anti-sovereignty, anti-treaty organizations in the U.S. anti-Indian movement."

(Continued on page 3)

Tribe to Host Job Fair April 30

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will host a job fair from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 30 at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center. The job fair will be open to Tribal Citizens and their family members.

The fair is a great opportunity for tribal citizens to learn about and begin the application process for positions that will be opening up in tribal operations, Indian Health Services, Project First Light Resort and Casino, First Light Oysters farm, construction, tribal law enforcement, and food and beverage. Tribal operations staff, vendors and contractors will be available to answer questions about the hiring process and professional training opportunities.

"Our tribal nation has been growing at a tremendous pace with significant potential for new economic development on the immediate horizon," said Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) Director Angela Shwom. "It's our goal to give our citizens first crack at the jobs they want and the training they need to reach their full potential. This job fair will be the most direct way to make those connections."

This is the first of two job fairs that the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will hold. The second fair, hosted by the Mashpee Wampa-



noag Tribe Gaming Authority, will be held on Saturday, May 14 in Taunton. The Taunton fair will be open to the public.

Preference is given to qualified Native American candidates in accordance with the Indian Preference Act of 1934 (Title 25, U.S.C., Section 472). For more information about the job fair contact TERO Director Angela Shwom at (508) 477-0208 x118 or at ashwom@mwtribe.com.

Wampanoag Ball Award Nominations Due March 24

Nominations for the 2016 Osamequen Award for Wampanoag Business and Leadership, the Alice May Lopez Award for Advocacy and Volunteerism, and the Lewis Gurwitz Spirit Award are now being accepted. To download a copy of the nomination award form visit www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com/content/pages/73/WampBallNoms2016.pdf.

You may also pick up a copy of the nomination form at the front desk of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center.

The winners will be announced at the Mashpee Wampanoag Ball on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at the White's of Westport in Westport, MA. Nominations may only be submitted by tribal citizens and may not be anonymous. A nomination will not be considered unless the nominator is identified.

All nominations must be received at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Office, Attn: Ball Committee: 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee, MA 02649 no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 24, 2016.

Events Calendar

New Events

March 12 - 10:30 a.m. to Noon
Habitat for Humanity Info Session,
Mashpee Public Library

March 13 - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
General Body Meeting, *MWTCGC*

March 18 & 19
Community Economic Development
Session, *MWTCGC*

March 18 & 19 - 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Free OSHA Training, *Mashpee Public
Library*

March 25 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Youth Wellbriety, *MWTCGC*

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

April 9 & 10
Peacemakers Session, *MWTCGC*

April 16 - 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.
20th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Ball,
White's of Westport

April 30 - 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Job Fair, *MWTCGC*

Weekly Events

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesdays - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
& **5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**
Tribal Health Yoga with Virginia and
Kimma, *MWTCGC*

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

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

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

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

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

Announcements

» **Emerie Sylvia Foster** was born on 11-27-15, 7lbs 6oz 20inches at South Shore Hospital the daughter of Kristen Wyman of the Nipmuc Tribe and Charles "Bobby" Foster of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. Emerie, meaning "brave" and "powerful", is a beautiful reflection of her spirit and strength. Congratulations Kristen and Councilman Foster on the birth of your beautiful baby girl.



Emerie Sylvia Foster

» **Alexis N. Molokwu** will graduate from UMass Amherst on May 10, 2016. Alexis is a dean's list student at the University. She is the daughter of Valerie Fernandez and William Molokwu and the granddaughter of Sonya Avant "Silver Moon." Congratulations Alexis on your academic success and wishing you the best of luck on your future endeavors.

Martha Pearson Donates Photos to Archives



Top (left to right): George Bingham, Richard Young, Larry Dove, Raymond Martini, Joe Lumber, Mickey Frye, Steven Bingham. Bottom row (left to Right): Bernard Coombs, Mary Debarros, Darryl Grey, Ronald Turner, Martha Pearson, Catherine Hendricks, Nancy Martin, Donna Frye, Jane Hendricks Mary. Circa 1949.



Leona Anabelle Tobey-White at Jury Duty, undated. Top left photo and this photo were both donated to the Archives by Martha Pearson.

Submitting Material to the Archives

While archives have had a few community members submit letters, photos and other items of tribal citizens' life in Mashpee in the early 1900's, the story of the Mashpee Wampanoag people is far from complete. Tribal Archivist Stephen Curley is hopeful that more tribal citizens will open up their personal archives and consider sharing material that depicts their elders place and puts their role in the Tribe into context. These types of materials can be anything from photographs, letters and papers to artwork and audio and video formats.

If you would like to donate photographs or other material for long-term preservation, please contact Stephen Curley at (508) 477-0208 x196 or at stephen.curley@mwtribe.com.



Clinton Haynes, circa 1932. Taken from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Archives, courtesy of "Kitty" Hendricks.

Do You Have News to Share in the Mittark?

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

Join the Running Club: Wampanoag Road Runners

Tribal citizens interested in fitness and fun are welcome to join the Wampanoag Road Runners as we engage in training for the upcoming season of running events.

The group meets Saturdays at 8:00 am in the fitness room of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center for warm up exercises before training runs on a three or five mile course.

Beyond having fun the goal is to be inspired and prepare for local charity road races including 5K, 10K, half-marathons, marathons, and world-class events like the Fal-mouth Road Race.

All you need is a good pair of running shoes and a desire to get fit.

For more information contact Paula Peters by email at paula@SmokeSygnals.com.



Honoring Our Herring

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

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



Illustration by Tia Pocknett

Chairman's Column *(continued)*

Neil Bluhm has openly acknowledged his role in financing the litigation and his association with the anti-tribe organization.

And look who they hired to represent them in this suit: David Tenant of Nixon Peabody. This is a lawyer who has worked on several cases against Native Americans and recently appeared with Neil Bluhm before the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. Bluhm's lawyers have openly questioned whether we are a "real" Tribe. (Where have we heard that before?)

When you add it all up, it's easy to see we are dealing with a group of people who have no respect for history, the law, or Indian Country. It's been long standing legal principle in American jurisprudence that federally-recognized Indian tribes have the right to self-determination; that as a matter of justice, we have certain rights tied to the land of our ancestors.

It has also been long established that the federal government has a moral and legal obligation to rectify the genocidal policies carried out against our people in years past. One way to do that was to give Indian Tribes the right to game on reservation land as a way to generate revenues to fund our governments and uphold our traditions.

That's what the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act is all about - carving out a space in the market that give Tribes a path to self-reliance so that Indian Country will not be dependent on the U.S. government or outside investors to fund the vital services and economic opportunities our people need.

Neil Bluhm, CERA, CERF, and their allies attempt to whitewash history is an affront not only to the letter of the law but to the spirit of the law as well.

So here we are, confronting an anti-Indian group, living on stolen land, filing a suit financed by an out-of-state developer to try and take land away from the people who were living here for thousands of years before the Mayflower. The absurdity and

immorality of it all is stunning.

But I've got news for them: they are on the wrong side of history.

With the strength and unity of our people - the winds of divine favor at our backs - we will prevail. And we are not in this alone. We have a highly competent legal team fighting the good fight. We have an army of supporters across the state - from legislators and Taunton City officials to local residents in both Taunton and Mashpee.

And, most crucially, we have the U.S. Justice Department on our side, as it will be the Department of Justice who will defend our Land-In-Trust decision. Needless to say, the DOJ has an excellent track record in dealing with frivolous lawsuits.

While we deal with this annoyance, let me re-assure you that we are moving full-steam ahead in building Project First Light in Taunton. We are on track and on schedule to begin construction in the coming months.

So, instead of losing sleep over this, I invite you to do what I'll be doing on April 16: celebrating and dancing the night away at our 20th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Ball. This year's ball will be held at the White's of Westport in Westport near Fall River.

It's the first time it will be held off-Cape in a convenient, central location for the many tribal citizens, family and friends that attend from both on- and off-Cape. Tickets are \$35 and will be on sale at the front desk of our Community and Government Center in Mashpee as well as Puritan's Clothing in the Mashpee Commons.

Get your tickets now and come celebrate with us as we march onward and upward in fulfilling our destiny. We are still here - and here we shall remain!

Kutâputunumuw,

Cedric Cromwell
Qaqeemashq (Running Bear)

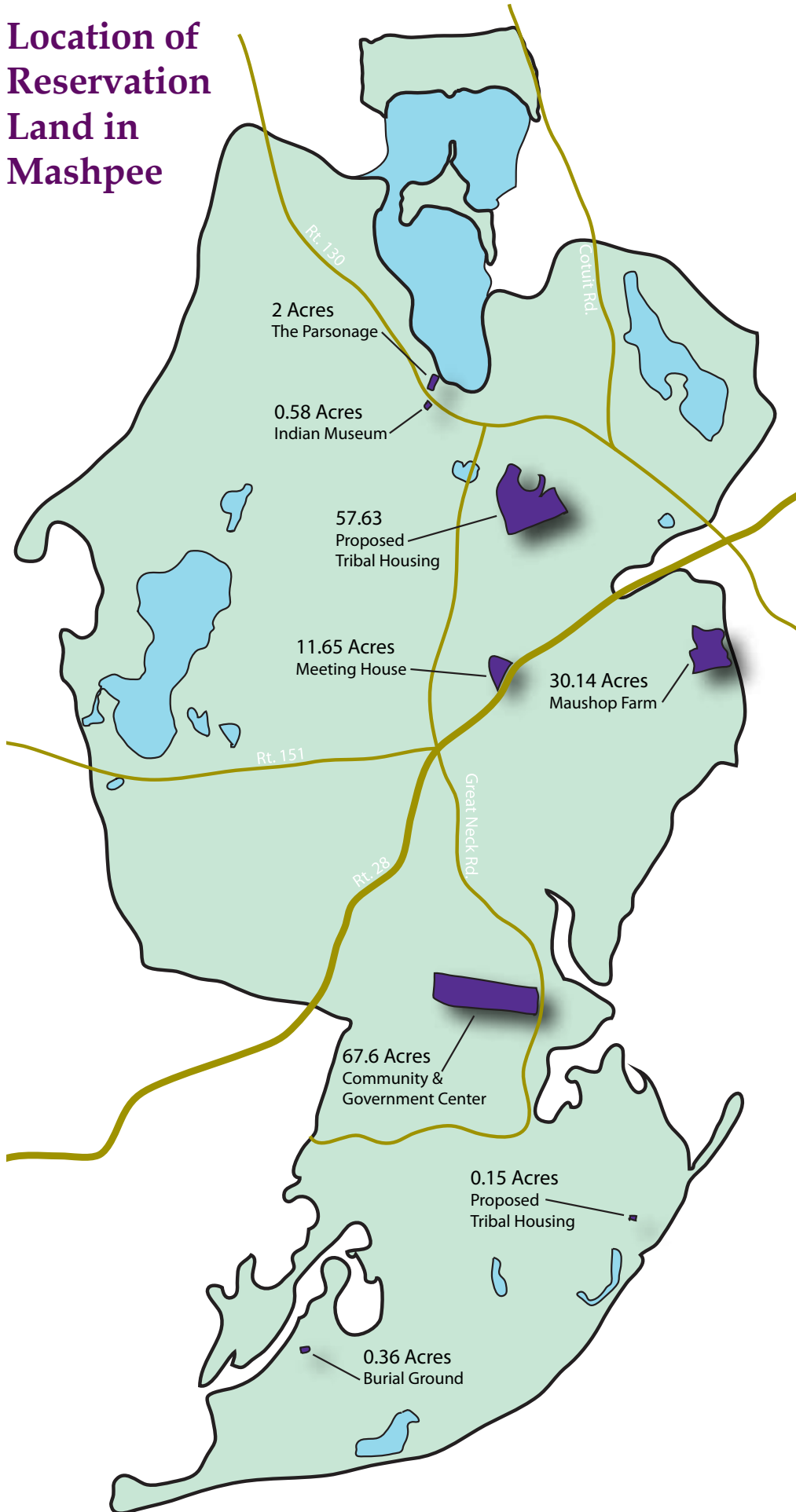
20th Annual Wampanoag Ball

The Mashpee Wampanoag Ball Committee is pleased to announce the 20th Annual Ball will be held on Saturday, April 16 at the White's of Westport. The theme for this year's event is "Celebrating Our Sovereignty."

General admission tickets for the

popular event are \$35 and are on sale at the Community and Government Center and Puritan's Clothing in the Mashpee Commons. Tickets for MWT elders and their spouses are \$25 and may be purchased at the Elder's Department, Joanne Frye. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Location of Reservation Land in Mashpee



Reservation Markers

Tribal lands in Taunton and Mashpee, were officially declared a reservation by the U.S. Department of Interior on Friday, January 8, allowing the tribe to raise their nation's flag for the first time on their newly designated tribal land on January 11 and shortly after place boundary markers at each parcel of land. The boundary markers serve as a literal and figurative sign to all visitors that they are now entering a reservation of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

Even with recent opposition from a small group of residents in Taunton - backed by a prospective casino developer in Brockton - the approximately 151 acres in East Taunton and 170 acres in Mashpee currently are and will continue to be the sovereign, reservation land of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, now that the Tribe's land has been declared a reservation the Mashpee Wampanoag can look ahead to breaking ground on a Project First Light Resort and Casino.

The Tribe's destination resort and casino is slated to begin in the spring of 2016. The project will create roughly 3,500 full and part-time jobs, as well as 287 construction jobs. The resort will feature a 150,000 square foot casino, an events center, 600 hotel rooms, 150 table games, 3,000 slot machines and 40 poker tables when fully built out.



What's Next for the Parsonage? Share Your Ideas

What should be done with the Parsonage? That's an important question that the Tribal Historic Preservation Department (THPD) is faced with and looking to the Tribal body for assistance answering.

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) Ramona Peters is concerned that the structure is beyond saving and is a danger to the community. "It's become too dangerous to enter and reached a point where we need to figure out what's next," said Ramona. "We'd like to hear from the tribal body before moving forward. We're interested in any ideas that people have on the subject."

Throughout its history the Parsonage has undergone significant changes and renovations.

Ebenezer and Benjamin Attaquin sold the original building, which was much larger than the current structure, in 1852 for \$550 to the Parish. It was used to house the presiding minister and became known as the Parsonage.

In addition to housing the minister,



the Parsonage also served as a shelter for families in need. Families that had no place to go would stay in the home until they were able to get back on their feet. George and Mable Avant's farm would also provide food to these families. The community truly came together and supported each other and the Parsonage stood as a symbol of that community spirit.

By the early 1960s the parsonage was in dire need of a renovation. The outbuildings

and the barn were in total disrepair and had to be removed. Renovations started in 1963 and involved updating the kitchen and bathroom.

Upon completion of the renovation in 1963, the Tribal council leased the building and it became the Tribe's business offices.

Ramona and Deputy THPO David Weeden are keeping all options on the table as they weigh what will be the next chapter for the building. Options might be to take it down and rebuild it in historical fashion or take it down and put something else there for tribal use. It's a wonderful piece of property located across the street from the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum and includes access to the flume and waterways.

Do you have thoughts on what should be done with the Parsonage? If you have questions or suggestions on the subject, please contact THPO Ramona Peters at (508) 477-0208 x101 or rpeters@mwtribe.com or contact Deputy THPO David Weeden at (508) 477-0208 x 102 or dweeden@mwtribe.com.

Tribe Receives Affordable Housing Grant

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced more than \$660 million in grant allocations to 587 Native American tribes in 35 states on Tuesday, February 16. Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) allocations are distributed each year to eligible Indian tribes or their tribally designated housing entities for a range of affordable housing activities.

"This is great news for the Mashpee Wampanoag Nation," said Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Cedric Cromwell. "Our Housing Department has a range of programs to support the immediate and long-term housing needs in our community and this Housing Block Grant is going to allow them to enhance those important programs."

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will receive nearly \$700,000. The Tribe received a similar grant in 2015 that amounted to just under \$619,000.

Director of Housing at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Deirdre Lopes is

glad to see the tribe once again receive this grant. "These grant funds are a significant source of revenue that we need to run our programs, like the housing lottery," said Deirdre. "It's not always easy to make ends meet, but the support we received from the IHBG Grant will help us to bridge the gap between income and expenses."

IHBG funds benefit low-income families living on Indian reservations or communities. The amount of each grant is based on a formula that considers local needs and housing units under management by the tribe or designated entity.

"Every family, every community in America, deserves the chance to flourish," HUD Secretary Julian Castro said. "Tribes use this funding to build new homes, or to solve their most pressing housing issues. Our partnerships with tribal communities and leaders are critical today to help ensure better housing, neighborhoods, and economic opportunities for tomorrow."

"Our Housing Department has a range of programs to support the immediate and long-term housing needs in our community and this Housing Block Grant is going to allow them to enhance those important programs."

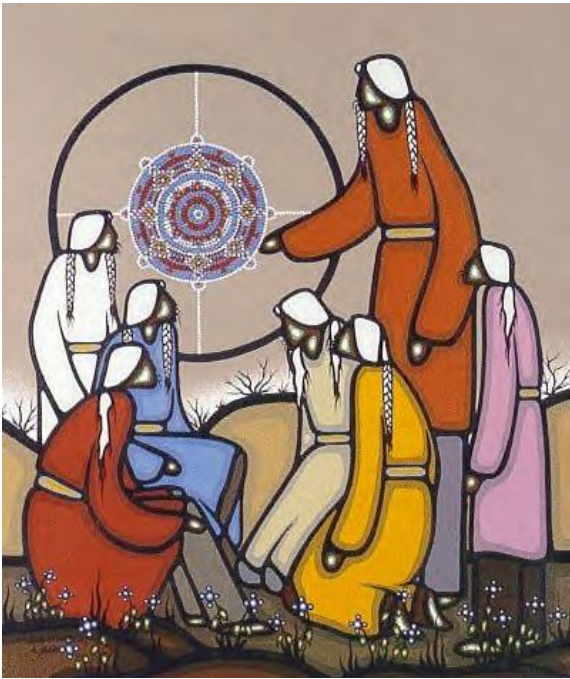
- Chairman Cedric Cromwell

Youth Wellbriety Starts March 25

The Youth Programs and Education Departments have organized weekly meetings starting Friday, March 25 to help native youth in grades 7 through 12 discover the path to wellbriety - the Native American way. The meetings will run each Friday 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. from March 25 to June 10 at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center at 483 Great Neck Road South in Mashpee. If you would like to register for this session please contact Tracy Kelley, director of youth programs, at (508) 477-0208 x150 or tracy.kelley@mwtribe.com or Scott Shepherd, interim director of education, at (508) 477-0208 x 178 or scott.shepherd@mwtribe.com by March 11. There are only 25 slots available for this session.

This session is part of the White Bison Youth Medicine Wheel and 12 Steps program. White Bison fosters a culturally relevant approach to sobriety and wellness that includes a life that is balanced emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually.





APRIL 9-10, 2016 PEACEMAKING TRAINING

Presented by Paul Raphael, Odawa Tribe

“Peace is not the end of the process to heal the Earth – it is the beginning. Without peace, we will never have the time, resources or human energy to work on the healing of ourselves, our families, our communities or the Earth”

Parley Kanaka’ole ole, Hawaiian spiritual leader



DO YOU WANT TO
LEARN MORE
ABOUT
PEACEMAKING?

FREE FOR ALL
TRIBAL MEMBERS!

Saturday 4/9
9am – 3pm

Sunday 4/10
9am- 12pm

Located at Mashpee
Government Center

For more information
contact the Tribal Court at
(508) 477-0208 X190

www.mwtribejudicial.com

Centered Listening



In my travels to learn about Peacemaking, I came across an article that made a point on how important listening is to human interaction and wanted to share it with my tribal family.

What is Centered Listening? Centered listening means tuning my energy into the heart of the other, into the center of their being. It seeks to both hear the words and hear beyond them in order to understand deeply the essence of their message. It means setting aside, for the moment, my agenda, my opinions, my feelings and focusing, with all my capability, on the other and what is important to them.

Centered listening emerges from, and communicates, a profound respect for the other. It says, “You are a person of great worth and, whether or not I agree with you, I want to hear what’s in your heart.” Centered listening is not an easy task, especially in conflict and especially with those closest to me. It is a spiritual act, akin to prayer, and it demands commitment, discipline and vulnerability. It reaches out open hands to receive rather than fists to hurt or folded arms to protect.

Centered listening is rare because few people really know how. Few of us know how to momentarily shelve our own agenda. Few of us can refrain from advising, judging, interrogating or interrupting with our own stories and opinions.

By
Carolyn Schrock

About the Peacemaking Presenter

Paul Raphael is a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Odawa Indians. He is a tribal elder from Peshawbestown, Michigan of the Raven Clan. Paul is an International Peace Maker working towards developing peacemaking in communities here in the U. S. and in Europe. Paul has worked with Tribal Courts and State Courts in Michigan. He has also worked with people dealing with loss, grief and historical trauma.



Tribal Citizen Finds His Pathway at CCBL Internship - by Jacob Tobey

I've lived on Cape Cod my whole life and throughout the years, I never realized the gateway to my ultimate success was right in front of my eyes. I was blind to it.

Growing up in a small town like Sandwich, I didn't really think there could be such an amazing opportunity in my backyard that would help me carve out a path to my future, but I was wrong. That pathway is the Cape Cod Baseball League.

When I was a sophomore at Sturgis East Charter Public School in Hyannis, I realized what career I wanted to pursue: sports play-by-play broadcasting. I fell in love with the idea and have never looked back. Ever since, I've been working toward that goal. I was the co-founder of a sports radio group at Sturgis and we broadcast basketball and baseball games. I fell in love with storytelling and because of this I wanted to see what types of internships were out there. I talked with my mom and she mentioned the CCBL and so I contacted Public Relations Director John Garner Jr., and not long after, I became part of the country's top collegiate summer baseball league.

My title was "league intern" under the PR department, specifically under Mr. Garner. I was assigned to do Cape League Reports on WXTK-FM (95.1) three days a week while Wareham Gateman broadcaster Eric Bremer did the other two. These reports included game scores from the previous night, a schedule for that day, and any league news that was important. It was as simple as recording these updates on my computer at home, and sending it into the radio station the night before. The games mainly finished up by 10 p.m. so after finishing up my restaurant job at 10, I would then go straight home and record, a routine I got really used to following.

As a PR intern, I also got to help out with the Sunday Night Game of the Week, which was broadcast on sports radio 96.3 WEEL Cape Cod. Along with play-by-play man Larry Egan and color analyst Garner, I played the part of relaying the other scores on the air every three innings or so, and occasionally adding some analysis to the broadcast. I would also grab the lineups before the game and fill out their scorebooks to prep them as much as possible. I loved getting to experience almost all the ballparks in the Cape League. Our schedule was set up to include every team in the broadcast at least once throughout the summer. I also loved hearing myself on live radio, and so did my family.

I had never been to any of these ballparks before and to experience the atmosphere at each was amazing. The fans were always into it, and I couldn't help but smile



when seeing the kids chase fly balls and tackle one another.

Some unusual things can happen during the broadcast, and you just have to roll with it. I recall one time the WEEL broadcast was at Red Wilson Field, home of the 2014 and 2015 champion Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox, and we were in the middle of a broadcast when a bird randomly swooped over the outfield, dropped its dinner (a dead animal) in the outfield and flew away. I can remember Larry laughing and still trying to broadcast what had just happened. It's memories like that that make the Cape League so special.

But none of my experiences could top the 2015 All-Star game, which was held at Spillane Field in Wareham. I had the opportunity to work with Fox College Sports broadcasters Eric Frede (Comcast SportsNet) and Ken Ryan (former Red Sox pitcher), and anything they needed before and during the game, I was their man. Aside from the memories of that day, I also received a fancy media press pass that's become a treasured keepsake. Eric and Ken were amazing guys, and sitting with them throughout the whole broadcast, I got to witness how they taped their pre-game opening and how they relayed back to the tech truck and all the little things that viewers on television never see. Watching everything Eric did made me a better broadcaster and getting a shoutout from him at the end of the TV broadcast was something I'll never forget.

It was amazing to hear myself on the radio at age 18, doing sports. I can't think of a better way to get hands on experience with sports broadcasting than the Cape League. The league also allows for you to meet a lot of people. In addition to Eric and Ken, I got to meet WEEL.com's Boston Red Sox beat writ-

er Rob Bradford at the Cape League's First Pitch Brunch, and he gave me great advice on how to become a true professional. I also met UMass Amherst Athletic Director Ryan Bamford when we had him on WEEL for an interview.

There are so many people involved with the Cape league it is impossible to remember everyone's names. The one thing about the Cape League I love is no matter if you know someone or not, they will welcome you into the Cape League family. Judy Walden Scarafile, who recently stepped down as after 24 years as Cape League president, was one of the many who welcomed me with open arms. She talked to me like she was my friend, not my boss. She shared with me story ideas and useful tips to make me better. She made me feel welcome and I will never forget her kindness.

So what's next? Last month I was officially announced as a member of the 2016 Wareham Gatemen broadcast team. I will be doing play-by-play and color commentary for the Gatemen this summer and I couldn't be more excited. I also will continue to do Cape League reports. It's sure to be a busy summer, but to me, it'll be worth it.

There's no better feeling than hearing my voice on the radio, doing what I love. Plain and simple, the Cape Cod Baseball League is my perfect pathway to success.

Affordable Housing in Mashpee

Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Housing Department are pleased to announce two 3-bedroom affordable homes will be built in Mashpee. The deadline for application submission to Habitat Office is Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

Applicant households must be income eligible, with a maximum 65% of area median income* for household size \$53,235 for a family of four, be willing to commit many hours of sweat equity to building the home, and have a housing need. *Using HUD/FHLBB median income guidelines, adjusted annually - figures may change during application period.

In addition to picking up an application at the Housing Department, applications are also available at the Mashpee Town Hall; Mashpee Library; at an application information session; or at the Habitat for Humanity office at 411 Main Street (Route 6A), Yarmouth Port.



Housing Department Update

This month's monthly quote in the Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department is: "Sometimes it's the smallest decisions that can change a life forever." This is such a powerful message to keep on hand as we go about our daily work – a reminder that we have the power to make a positive impact on each and every person that comes into our department. You ask how? First, let go of the past. Second, listen to your inner voice and tap into the future. Third, live in the moment. We hope you have a great month from all of your family and friends in the Housing Department.

Okay, so let's jump into the meat of our work. Below is a snapshot of the services that we've provided this year and where we stand to date.

Service	# Served	Dollars Spent	Balance
Rental Assistance.....	2 Citizens.....	\$2,300.00.....	\$35,200.00.....
Eviction Prevention.....	2 Citizens.....	\$2,596.98.....	\$17,403.02.....
Rental Subsidy.....	15 Citizens.....	\$8,400.00.....	\$41,700.00.....

In addition to the range of services we provide, please remember that the Habitat for Humanity application for the two Mashpee homes closes on Tuesday, April 5, 2016. You may pick up an application at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Housing Department. There will also be an information session about the Habitat for Humanity process at the Mashpee Library on Saturday, March 12 from 10:30 a.m. to noon and at the Habitat for Humanity office at 411 Main Street in South Yarmouth on March 4 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Thank You Letter to Housing Department

I would like to thank the Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department for their assistance during a very difficult time in my life. They lifted me up when I was down. Anytime I called Marcelle would always be there. And when she was not available, she would get back to me as soon as possible!

Brenda shared whatever resources that were available which might help me. Last but not least I would like to thank Diedra. From the day I walked into the Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department in tears Diedra reassured me everything was going to be ok.

So today I'm in a new home thanks to these three ladies. I received the financial support I needed but more importantly these ladies also gave me hope. I'm forever grateful!

Thank You,
Stephanie Holmes and family

Household Hazardous Products

A wide range of materials used in homes are considered hazardous. Generally, these products are oil- or solvent-based, contain heavy metals such as mercury, or are caustic materials like drain cleaners.

Thousands of adults will visit a poison control center or emergency room this year with burns, poisoning, or eyesight damage caused by hazardous household products. Almost 1 million children under the age of six will be poisoned or injured in the home by household products, as will thousands of pets.

How can they be identified?

Read the label. If the label says Danger, Poison, Warning, or Caution, the product may be hazardous to your health or may pollute our ground and surface water.

Should I throw them away?

No! Some household products release toxic fumes or explode if they are mixed together in the trash, causing fires or injuring workers. Dumping them in landfills or sewers could contaminate our water supply or kill fish and other wildlife.

Cleaners & chemicals, paint, polishes, & stains, yard chemicals, auto fluids, mercury products are a few of products to bring to the collection stations.

Recycle other items at your transfer stations: used oil, oil filters, & antifreeze. Auto & rechargeable batteries, florescent tubes & compact light bulbs, empty fire ex-

tinguishers, propane tanks, dry paint cans.

Dispose of these items as noted:

Latex & Acrylic paints, water-based stains & wood finishes pour over cat litter to absorb liquid and throw away.

Look for Collection Schedule in your town: Any questions Contact the Barnstable County Hazardous Materials Program (508) 375-6699/ (800) 319-2783

Yes, be extra careful we need clean air, water, and land. Respectfully submitted: Brenda P. Fernandez MWT Housing. Information supplied by COVANTA



Residential Lease Workshop April 2

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and WE CAN are co-sponsoring a special workshop to help tribal citizens gain a stronger understanding of residential leases. The workshop "Overview of Residential Leases" will be held on Saturday, April 2 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center.

The workshop will be lead by Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe District Court Judge Jeffrey L. Madison and Attorney Jeni Landers. The workshop is intended to provide an overview of residential leases and answer questions that participants may have about leases.

To register for this workshop please call WE CAN at (508) 430-8111.



Notice from Tribal Law Enforcement

Everyone especially elders are becoming victims of phone, email, mail, classified ad, and text scams. Unfortunately prosecution and reimbursements of the funds lost are almost never the final disposition of these types of case.

If you think you are a victim of or have received a scam attempt and want to talk to someone about it, please call the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Law Enforcement Agency non-emergency line at (774) 361-6045 and ask to speak with S.A. Kevin M Frye, Sr. or S.A. Curtis W. Frye, III.

Listed below are just a few examples of these scams;

“Debt Scam” is when a person pretending to be from a credit card company or utility company calls asking for immediate payment to be made. The caller may offer to lower a balance due on a credit card or threaten to turn off utilities. They will insist payment be made in a manner that is not the normal processing procedures. If you think the call is a scam you should hang up and call the credit card company or utility company directly using a published phone number or call another family member and let them know.

“IRS Tax Return File Scam” is when somebody files a false tax return under another individual’s name. When the victim files their tax return they will receive a message that you have already filed your tax return. To

try and prevent this scam please file your taxes as soon as possible.

“IRS Scam Calls” is when a person pretending to be an IRS Agent calls. They may say you owe from prior years and or an error was found on your prior years tax returns and demand immediate payment. You should know the IRS will never call about taxes you owe without first mailing you a bill. To confirm if you owe taxes call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. If you don’t owe taxes or believe the call is a scam, hang up and report the incident to TIGTA at 1-800-366-4484 or at www.tigta.gov.

“Emergency Scam” is when a person pretending to be a friend or family member calls or sends an email requesting money to help with things like a medical bill or bail. The schemer calls and will say “Dad” “Mom” “Grandpa” it’s me and waits for the elder to say a name. If you are unsure about a call or email call a family member.

“Prize Winner Scam” is when a person will make you think you won a raffle or lottery and request your information to verify your identify before awarding the winning money. They may also request you pay a transaction or processing fee to get you Millions in prize money. Never give your information over email or to somebody that calls you. If it’s too good to be true then it probably is.

What is Elder Abuse

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

Any knowing, intended, or careless act that causes harm or serious risk of harm to an older person— physically, psychologically, or financially

- » Physical abuse
- » Psychological/Emotional abuse
- » Sexual abuse
- » Financial abuse

WARNING SIGNS OF ELDER ABUSE

Elder abuse can take many forms. Here are some signs that there may be a problem:

- » Slap marks, most pressure marks, and certain types of burns or blisters (e.g., cigarette burns) most likely should cause suspicion whatever the explanation. Explanations that don’t seem to fit with the pattern of physical injury are also suspect.
- » Withdrawal from normal activities, unexplained change in alertness, or other unusual behavior may signal emotional abuse or neglect.
- » Bruises around the breasts or genital

area and unexplained sexually transmitted diseases can occur from sexual abuse.

- » Sudden change in finances and accounts, altered wills and trusts, unusual bank withdrawals, checks written as “loans” or “gifts,” and loss of property may suggest elder exploitation.
- » Untreated bedsores, need for medical or dental care, unclean clothing, poor hygiene, overgrown hair and nails, and unusual weight loss are signs of possible neglect.

REPORTING ELDER ABUSE

If you suspect an individual is in immediate danger, seek immediate help from your local law enforcement. You can also visit the national Eldercare locator website at eldercare.gov or call 1800-677-1116 for resources in your area or contact the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit at (508)477-6967 and ask to speak with clinical therapist Nadine Phillips-Smart or PumukQien Collins.

Extra Incentive to Visit the Dentist

In addition to providing dental services at no cost to Tribal citizens, the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Health Services Dental Clinic enters each patient into a monthly raffle to win some great prizes. At the end of each month Dental Clinic staff pull one lucky patient’s name and contact them to claim their prize. Prize options include a new WaterPik irrigator, or electric toothbrush (adult/child) or mouthwash, tubes of toothpaste and other dental products. Please join us in congratulating our December winner Elliot Avant and January prize winner Valerie Molokwu.



If you would like to schedule an appointment to see the Dentist contact the Indian Health Service Unit at (508) 477-6967. We’re open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The American Indian Tax Exemption

Before you file your taxes, know about the 'American Indian Tax Exemption.' It's time to file taxes and this year there is a new penalty, or, "individual shared responsibility payment" cost, according to the Internal Revenue Service. However, Native Americans who did not have health insurance during 2015 can avoid the cost by filing an exemption.

There's no need to worry about the "shared responsibility" cost if you had private insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid in 2015 and if you do not file taxes, according to the IRS guidelines. If you fall in any of these categories, sit back and relax, you don't need it and you don't qualify.

But if you are among the many Native Americans who are members of a Federal Recognized tribes and are qualified to receive services from an Indian Health Service facility, a tribal health clinic, or an urban Indian health organization, you are exempt from having to pay the "individual shared responsibility payment."

In order to qualify for the "Health Insurance Marketplace Application for Exemption for American Indians and Alaska Natives and other Individuals who are Eligible to Receive Services from an Indian Health Care Provider, you will need a copy of your certification enrollment letter or tribal membership card, Social Security numbers and household information.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Health Department and your local IHS can provide an application for exemption. For more information about the exemption process you can contact Wendy Pocknett at 508 477 0208 x166

"The exemption application is also provided on our website www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com and www.HealthCare.gov.

According to HealthCare.gov the shared responsibility cost will continue to increase, "the penalty increases every year. In 2016, it's 2.5 percent of income or \$695 per person after that it is adjusted for inflation."

Tribal Museum Starts to Catalog Inventory

The Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum is putting a grant it received from the Institute of Museum of Library Services (IMLS) to good use. The IMLS grant has allowed the Museum to hire Matt Vigneau, a professional collections manager, and Gail Hill as a tribal citizen in training to conduct a collections inventory audit and assessment that will ultimately result in the creation of an electronic cataloging system.

During the process Gail will learn each step of the process including digital photography and management of the cataloging system. It's the goal of the Museum to transition Gail into the role of Collection Manager after her training with Matt is completed.



Gail sees this project as a major step toward improving the efficiency of the Museum and it's ability to share educational content. "The new catalog system will bolster the Museum's professional standards



and will enable us to pursue traveling exhibit loans and gift opportunities to build on our collection," said Gail. "The Museum is our Tribe's primary point of contact with the public. It's very important that we're able to develop both educational components that visitors can interact with and permanent collections that reveal interesting elements of both our past and present,"

Ramona Peters, historic preservation officer at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, hopes to bring the Museum up to the level of receiving American Alliance of Museum accreditation. "Accreditation will offer high profile, peer-based validation of our museum's operations and impact. Accreditation will increase our Museum's credibility and value to funders, policy makers, insurers, community members and peers," said Ramona.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum is scheduled to open for the 2016-2017 season on April 4. For more information about the Museum and its programs call (508) 477-9339.

Museum Events

Honoring our Herring Day

Date: April 20

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum

Strawberry Thanksgiving

Date: June 18

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum

Artisan's Festival

Date: July 24

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Mashpee Community Park (across from Mashpee Town Hall)

Visit of the Little People

Date: TBA (sometime in August)

Time: TBA

Location: Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum

Craft Night

Mondays

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

MWTCGC Elder's Kitchen (temporary location change due to cataloging being conducted at the Museum)

Pre School Language Hour

Fridays

10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

MWTCGC Elder's Kitchen (temporary location change due to cataloging being conducted at the Museum)

Open Seat on the Enrollment Committee

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

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

Economic Development Discussion to be Held March 18 to March 19

A new date for the community discussion on economic development that was originally scheduled in January has been set. The two-day session will be held on Friday, March 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center. The forum will focus on defining the community's vision for a vibrant and healthy native economy.

The session theme "What's Your Vision" is about finding success and balance with community values. Not too long ago if you took a drive through Mashpee you'd pass a series of successful native owned businesses - signs of a healthy native economy. Businesses like Walter Mingo's Coasting Company, The Mashpee Manufacturing Company, The Hotel Attaquin, Ockry Trading Company, Peters' Oil, Amelia's Café, and of course the beloved Flume Restaurant. While the business landscape in Mashpee has changed dramatically since these businesses have closed, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Planning and Development Department believe that there is an opportunity to breath new life into a native economy.

Senior Planner at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Danielle Hill sees the vision and ideas shared at the two-day session as a guide to a successful economic plan. "Working with a broad range of tribal citizens, along with business and local community leaders will provide us with valuable insight into community strengths, opportunities, needs and priorities," said Danielle. "Finding the best way to leverage those strengths and build on the



work laid by our ancestors will ensure that our final economic development plan helps entrepreneurs, small businesses and job seekers.'

As a federally recognized tribe that now has an initial reservation there are new opportunities and business development advantages over non-native businesses that provide explosive potential for economic growth. However, to make this work the Planning and Development Department, charged with completing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs), needs to first hear what the community wants in terms of economic development...what's your Vision.

"The best way to find out what the tribe needs is to ask them, and then listen to their responses," said Danielle. "Any eco-

nomc development plan we write will be grounded in the values, traditions and goals of the community to ensure we address the core needs of our businesses."

The community discussion will be spread over two days with discussion themes on Community Values, When Mashpee Wampanoag is at its Best, What Mashpee Should do More of, Three Wishes, Forms of Capital, Economic Development Goals and Objectives, and Project Priorities.

The open discussion is open to all tribal citizens and the public. Attendees are asked to register by Monday, March 14 by sending an email to Associate Planner Billie Mills at billiemills@mwtribe.com or calling her at (508) 477-0208 x126.

New Tribal Enrollment Assistant Stephanie Anne Coleman

The Enrollment Department is pleased to announce Stephanie Anne Coleman has joined the team as the new Enrollment Assistant. Stephanie is a citizen of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. As the new enrollment assistant for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Stephanie is looking forward to "learning more about our ancestors and serving my tribal community."

Before moving home to Mashpee to be close to family, Stephanie studied at the University of Cincinnati in 2004 where she majored in psychology and studied business management. After college she moved to Alexandria Virginia. While living in Virginia she managed several independently own restaurants for the same em-

ployer over the course of seven years gaining experience in customer service, business management and marketing.

Her past experience, attention to detail and knowledge of the community make her a great addition to the team. The Enrollment Department is excited to have Stephanie onboard.



CCDF Public Hearing

CCDF will be holding its annual Tribal Child Care Program Public Hearing on Thursday, April 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Mashpee Public Library located at 64 Steeple Street. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

During the annual public hearing the staff will answer any questions you may have and will listen to input and suggestions that the community have on the Tribal Child Care Program.



Stay informed of Tribal updates and notices
facebook.com/mwtribe

COMMUNITY



Photos of Past Mashpee Leaders: Clara Louise (Peters) Keliinui

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

This month we're featuring a photo of Mashpee's first woman Selectman Clara Louise (Peters) Keliinui with Frank Hicks and Leroy Aiken.

Clara was never afraid to be the first in just about any arena in her lifetime - from politics to athletics Clara was willing to lead the way down an uncharted path. Clara was elected the first woman Selectman for the town of Mashpee in 1955. By 1956 she was named the Chairman of the Board of Selectman. As such, the Chairman also served as the Chief of Police.

Clara was the daughter of Steven and Clara Peters. Steven "Happy" Peters, Sr., served 27 years as a selectman until his death



in June of 1955. Clara was inspired and determined to continue his legacy by seeking election later that year.

If you have a photo and story you think we should share, please email it to Trish Keliinui at trish.keliinui@mwtribe.com.