



Nashauonk Mittark™

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February 2015



DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY

Chairman's Column



Dear Tribal Family,

Just mention the word "politics" and some want to run for the hills.

Because it has the power to stir passions and tends to highlight differences as candidates seek to distinguish themselves from one another, it's an understandable reaction - especially if politics degenerates into personal attacks.

Yet, as we approach the upcoming Tribal Council Election, I have come to appreciate the fortitude it takes to not retreat from political engagement while respecting the process that makes it possible.

Allow me then to offer my sincere gratitude to the 11 candidates vying for votes on February 8th.

Yvonne Avant (i); Robert Dias; Cheryl Frye-Cromwell (i); Carlton Hendricks Jr (i); Danielle Hill; Winnie Johnson-Graham (i); Patricia "Trish" Keliinui (i); Laura Miranda (i); Winona Pocknett; Robyn Tobey Stamps; and Aaron Tobey Jr. We owe each one a debt of gratitude for their willingness to assume the responsibility of leadership in what is often a thankless job.

Of course, only the top six vote-getters will be elected to a four-year term on the Tribal Council. But that doesn't diminish the value that each of the candidates contributes to the process, even if it serves only to clarify the views of the general membership or helps to refine the focus of those ultimately entrusted with the privilege of serving on the Tribal Council.

As I noted in the letter I sent out last week encouraging tribal members to attend the Candidate's Forum, with 11 candidates running

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Notice of Election on February 8, 2015

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Election Committee extends notice to all Enrolled Tribal Members who will turn 18 years of age on or before Sunday, February 8, 2015, that they are required to complete a Voter Registration form in order to vote at the general election on Sunday, February 8, 2015 (the "Election Day").

The Voter Registration form can be obtained at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community & Government Center, located at 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee, MA 02649 during regular business hours. All enrolled and eligible-to-vote Tribal members are allowed to register on or before the Election Day. Please remember to bring your federal, state or Mashpee Tribal Government issued photo ID when you vote on February 8, 2015.

The results of the Election will be posted at: (1) the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community & Government Center, 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee, MA 02649; and (2) on the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe official website on Monday, February 9, 2015.



The Tribal Election will be held to fill six (6) seats on the Tribal Council for current members of Tribal Council whose terms end on the Election Day. The following candidates have been certified by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Election Committee to appear on the February 8, 2015 ballot Robert Dias, Yvonne Avant (incumbent), Patricia "Trish" Keliinui (incumbent), Danielle Hill, Robyn Tobey Stamps, Laura Miranda (incumbent), Aaron Tobey Jr., Cheryl Frye Cromwell (incumbent), Carlton Hendricks Jr. (incumbent), Winnie Johnson-Graham (incumbent), and Winona Pocknett.

(Continued on page 8)

Win for Tribe: Bridge Denied

There will be no bridge to Gooseberry Island from Punkhorn Point Road. The proposed bridge to the private island would have caused permanent damage to the surrounding wetlands and shellfish.

After nearly a year of public hearings and strong opposition from the Tribe and Mashpee residents, the Mashpee Con-



servation Commission unanimously voted Thursday, January 22 to deny an application to build the bridge.

Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe saw this as a win for the Tribe and Mother Nature. "I am extremely pleased with the decision of the Mashpee Conservation Commission to deny a permit that would have turned a public resource into a driveway for the exclusive benefit of a private developer."

Chairman Cromwell added, "The proposed bridge to Gooseberry Island would have caused significant harm to a thriving aquaculture farm we have been licensed to harvest since the 1970s. I not only want to thank the Conservation Commission for making the right decision, I also

(Continued on page 2)

Events Calendar

New Events

February 8 - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

General Election,

Community and Government Center (MWTCGC)

February 18 - 10:00 a.m. to Noon &

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Diabetes 101 Workshops, MWTCGC

February 18 - 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Wôpanâak Language Charter School Forum,

Mashpee Library, 64 Steeple Street, Mashpee

February 21 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Multi-Cultural Craft Fair, MWTCGC

February 21 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wôpanâôt8âtôh! (Let's Talk Wôp!): Family Immersion Day, 20 Black Brook Road, Aquinnah

March 8 - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

General Body Meeting,

MWTCGC

March 21 - 6:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Mashpee Wampanoag Ball, Sea Crest Beach Hotel, Falmouth

Weekly Events

Tuesdays - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Elders Lunch & Learn, 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

Wednesdays - 5:30 p.m.

Enrollment Committee, MWTCGC

Wednesdays - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Tribal Health Zumba with Shirley, MWTCGC

Thursdays - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Elders Lunch & Learn, MWTCGC

Thursdays - 5:30 p.m.

Recovery Group, Old Indian Meeting House

Fridays - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Tribal Health Zumba with Shirley, MWTCGC

Monthly - 6:00 p.m.

Housing Commission, MWTCGC,

It is held the first Thursday and third Monday of each month.

Monthly - 6:00 p.m.

Chief's Circle, Old Indian Meeting House

It is held the first Tuesday of the month.

Monthly - 5:30 p.m.

Public Safety Commission, MWTCGC,

It is held the third Thursday of the month.



Powwow Princess Named 'One to Watch'

Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow Princess Sassamin Weeden has been named one of the "5 Beautiful Native Pageant Darlings to Watch in 2015" by Indian Country Today Media Network, a website and weekly newsletter that is a major news source in Indian Country.

Sassamin is a 2012 graduate of Mashpee High School and also serves as the Vice Chairperson of the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Executive Committee. She said she had no idea that she was going to be featured in the story.

"It was a real surprise and shock when I saw the article. I feel very blessed," she said.

As the second half of her reign as Powwow Princess begins, Sassamin has big plans on what she wants to accomplish during the year.

At the top of her list was connecting tribal youth with elders, as well as creating cultural programs to take focus away from drugs and alcohol.

"There's a lot of drug and alcohol abuse in Native communities. It's not just us.



Sassamin Weeden, center, at UNITY Open House 2014

There's also a lot of great thing happening too," she said.

She also hopes to establish a "fancy dance special" for members of other tribes who travel to our Powwow every July.

Sassamin currently works in retail, as well as in the office of a cardiologist.

"I'd like to return to school. People tell me that I would be great in public relations. I want to bring my education and experience back to my tribe and give back as much as possible," she said.

Rally Against Drug Abuse April 18

The Rally Against Drug Abuse will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to address the issue of substance abuse in our community and provide support for Tribal Members currently battling the disease of addiction.

This will be the second rally in the series and follows up on a rally that was held on January 31. Speakers at the January Rally included Desiree Hendricks, Lorraine Reels, Stanley Dutra, Ann Marie Peters, Stephanie Tobey, Glen Williams, Andy King, Joey Gomes, Kali Reis and Tribal Youth Kianah Quintal.

The rally is being organized by Tribal Members Stanley Dutra, Laura Miranda and Robyn Tobey Stamps. For more information, please contact Stanley at (781) 217-1005.

Bridge Denied (continued)

want to thank all of the Tribe members who made their voices heard, especially the expert input provided by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Natural Resources Department.

This is a great example of how our Tribe and the Town of Mashpee can come together around issues of common interest and work together to preserve the unique features of Mashpee."

This area is not only the main entrance to Popponesset Bay and the mouth of the Mashpee River, but encompasses our aquaculture farm where First Light Oysters are cultivated. The proposed bridge construction would have been built in and over the Tribe's successful aquaculture farm licensed by the Town and approved by the State since 1977.

The construction would not have been good for the natural habitat and ecological system. And, we believe the proposed development would cause significant harm to our harvesting of shellfish in the future.

Multi-Cultural Craft Fair for Alice



The Alice May Lopez Memorial Fundraising Committee will be hosting a Multi-Cultural Craft Fair on Saturday, February 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. Proceeds from the craft fair will go towards the Alice May Lopez Memorial Statue. The craft fair is open to the public.

Alice May Lopez passed away unexpectedly at the age of 49 in 2011. Alice was the founder and director of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Housing Department. She worked tirelessly for her people in her role and was passionate about providing safe, affordable housing to Tribal Members...nobody should be homeless in their homeland.

For more details about hosting a table, attending or providing direct support to the memorial fund, please call Carol Lopez at (509) 505-6693.

Sincerely,

Committee members:

Carol Lopez
Vanessa Mendes
Marcia Lopez
Wendy Roberts

Chairman's Column *(continued)*

for six Tribal Council seats, it speaks to the diversity of views within our Tribe and is a signal that the election process we have in place is solid. If that wasn't the case we wouldn't have so many candidates running. People don't work hard and participate if they truly thought the outcome was predetermined.

I also want to acknowledge the efforts of those serving on the Election Committee - Election Committee Chairwoman Kimberly Frye; Vice-Chair Latoya Green; Secretary Melissa Hill; Treasurer Cassie Jackson; Joanne Peters and Tribal Council Election Committee Liaison Charles Foster.

The Election Committee is charged with overseeing the entire process - from registering eligible voters up until the very day of the election to organizing the Candidate's Forum, which serves as a platform for tribal voters to become better acquainted with the positions of each candidate.

But, regardless of which positions candidates take, the most important aspect of the election process is the duty we have to ensure the integrity of the results, which is why we retain the services of an independent agency based in Salem, New Hampshire called LHS Associates to assist in the collecting and counting of ballots.

It is also why after each election the ballots are sorted and counted in full view of the candidates, under the watchful eye of a Mashpee police detail.

So, please mark your calendar and make it a point to let your vote count at our Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community & Government Center, 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee, MA on Feb. 8. Ballots will be cast at the following times:

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Enrolled Registered Elders and Disabled Persons
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: Enrolled Registered Elders, Disabled Persons, and All Tribal Members

Only your conscience can tell you how to vote. I only ask that you exercise your right to vote. And while it may sound cliché, every vote truly does count. In fact, the best way to ensure strong tribal leadership as we head into a momentous year ahead is for as many eligible Tribal citizens as possible to cast a ballot.

Kutâputunumuw;

Cedric Cromwell
Qaqeemasq (*Running Bear*)

Need Foster Homes for Our Tribal Youth

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Department is still in need of Foster Homes and Emergency placement homes for our youth that have been displayed for any number of reasons that are often outside of their control. If you are interested in providing a foster home, please contact ICWA Department Director Catherine Hendricks at (508) 477-0208 x 144 or email her at chatherinehendricks@mwt.com.

Qualifying to provide our youth a foster home in our community is a quick and easy process and it's an extremely rewarding experience. Our staff have completed the Mass Approach to Partnership and Parenting (MAPP) training classes and are now qualified to visit your home and work with you to get your home approved for emergency foster child care.

Our vision is when native children are removed from their parents they have Access to all community-based, cultural activities and services within the Tribal Community to maintain family ties until reunification can

take place.

Our goal is to prevent "out of Home placement" and to maintain family ties with the children and their parents until Reunification can take place.

We operate under the powerful mission to Retain and Preserve the native culture, in oneness that was handed down by Children's ancestors. Provide a safe home environment, for every native child one that is free from sexual, drug and alcohol abuse. Improve ways to strengthen families so they can hold on to their culture, language and tradition. Please help us realize our mission.

It's a big job with a profound impact on the future of the children we serve. These needs are constant and do not go away. We greatly appreciate any and all support we receive from Tribal Members. Please consider registering as a foster home today

Application for Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 51 Apprenticeship

The Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 51 Apprenticeship Training Program will be accepting applications for Plumber, Pipefitter and HVAC Technician apprentice training for a two week period beginning on March 2, 2015.

The applications will be available at their training facility located at 11 Hemingway Drive, East Providence, RI 02915 Monday thru Friday from March 2 to March 13 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. This is a great way to enter and learn a rewarding and successful trade.

All applicants must apply in person, be at least 18 years of age and have obtained either a High School or GED diploma. Applicant must already be out of high school at the

time they pick up their application.

Applicants must have a valid driver's license with them the day that they pick up their application.

You will have 30 days to return the application to the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 51 along with copies of your birth certificate, driver's license, diploma, and a high school transcript or GED. If you do not have your diploma, your transcript must have date of graduation listed on it. The union will not make copies of your documents.

All applicants are required to take a math test which consists of basic eighth grade math (fractions, decimals, division of numbers, etc.). They must obtain at least a 70 on

the math test in order to continue to an interview. Calculators are not allowed. An aptitude test will also be given. You will be given paperwork stating the date and time for your math test on the day you pick up your application. The aptitude test date will be given to you on the day of your math test as long as you pass the math test. Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 51 does drug test applicants.



Great Workshop Held on Managing Conflict and Team Building in a Tribal Workplace

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Tribal Rights Office Angela Shwom, Tribal Administrator Marita Scott and Human Resource Director Jason Turner coordinated the first employee wide training.



The course was developed and presented by the Falmouth Institute leaders in capacity building and training for Native American Tribal Nations, organizations and Enterprises.

Guest speaker: Kelly J. Skenandore Holtz Training & Development Manager for Oneida Casino located in Wisconsin brings over 13 years of experience working with the Oneida Nation to the Falmouth institute. Kelly has developed and provided training to employees at all levels of organizations and is enthusiastic in her mission to assist in the development of successful leaders.

Marita Scott and Jason Turner highlighted Mashpee Wampanoag's Tribes positive organizational growth in employment opportunities and the goal to connect tribal members to those opportunities by working closely with our TERO, WIA and our Education Departments. Marita Scott mentioned MWT values our employees and their potential growth within our or-

ganization. Angela Shwom Tribal Employments Rights Director confirmed our Native American preference initiative is at 87 percent tribal employment hiring capacity one of the highest in the Nation. We want to do everything possible to strengthen our Tribal workforce to meet our challenges and capture opportunities for our future.

Each employee will receive a certificate from Falmouth Institute that will be added to their professional resume. The training will help our employees communicate more effectively by enforcing standard workforce practices and recognizing challenges and providing strategies when working with and for our tribal family members.

Angela Shwom felt the workshop exceeded expectations. "Kelly delivered. She discussed the challenges of working in a Tribal workplace, we are all family and sometimes that's good and sometimes that's difficult. Kelly seemed very impressed with our Government Building and organizational goals."

At the employee training opening Jason Turner acknowledged some of



our successful MWT departments and their achievements. The MWT Departments and programs acknowledged were, Native Tribal Scholars Program for doubling our youth college acceptance rates in less than 4 years, Natural Resources Department for acclaimed Oyster farm honored by an EPA Environmental Merit Award and the New Lunch and learn Elders program that personifies a interdepartmental team approach of MWT Health Department's Nutrition program, coordinating with our Language Department, Elders department, Transportation department and our local Native caterers. This program addresses elder's nutritional needs by providing a hot lunch 2 times a week and targeting the negative health effects of isolation by providing structured socialization. The language program address a cognitive activity the joy of learning and embraces our cultural power and our nutritionist adheres to our TERO program hiring guidelines utilizing local Native caterers increasing opportunities inspiring memories by offering native cultural cuisine. This is a model program.

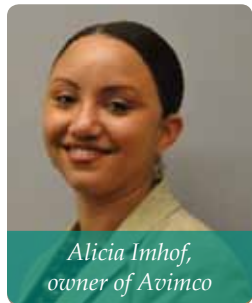
Tribal Business Serves Up Technical Support

In February of 2014, Avimco kicked off its partnership with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe by moving the network from the old building to the new government/community center.

Once the technical services, and program support was initiated, Avimco initiated its pilot scholarship program in August 2014, which donated a total of \$1500 to three tribal members that were attending college or university.

According to Alicia Imhof, founder and owner of Avimco, that project was followed by other community service initiatives such as, school supply donations to Elder Services in September, Christmas store buy back donations for tribal children, the donation of a Christmas tree, decorations and poinsettias that were used for winter festivities and activities. For 2015 Avimco has donated 2 computers to the elders department and taken on a tribal college student as an intern. His winter

project was to train some of the elders, who were very excited to learn.



Alicia Imhof,
owner of Avimco

Imhof said it is part of Avimco's mission to give back to the community – and hopes that this will spark other contractors to do the same.

“As we continue to strengthen our partnership with the tribe, we think it is extremely important because it provides us with eye-opening experiences, while benefiting others from my own community. Knowing that we can make an impact on lives within the tribe makes everything worthwhile and instills a sense of pride.”

As 2015 presses on, Imhof explained that there are more improvements in the works, such as a \$57,000 donation from Micro-

soft which will help with software upgrades, as well as another \$20,000 in general computer upgrades. Imhof said the donation will further develop Tribal technology and will make it easier for communication and development with tribal members and tribal government staff.

For Imhof, 2014 winds down on a “positive note,” and she is looking forward to more accomplishments in the new year including training opportunities, internship opportunities, and the summer scholarship for 2015.

“It has been a positive year and we have gotten a lot accomplished. And while we still have much to do in this next year, we are looking forward to tackling challenges and making further strides that will benefit the tribe as a whole,” she said. “We will continue our efforts to progress and further strengthen our partnership with the tribe.”

Wendy Pocknett Named Project Coordinator for Diabetes Study

Wendy Pocknett, Tribal Health Outreach Specialist, has been named the Project Coordinator for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded study, Identifying Postpartum Intervention Approaches to Prevent Type 2 Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease in Massachusetts American Indian Women with Previous Gestational Diabetes. As the Project Coordinator, Wendy will be working closely with Dr. Emily Jones from the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMASS Boston) to recruit study participants and facilitate study related activities.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Health Department is very enthusiastic about partnering with UMass Boston in the study that was approved by the Tribal Council in December and excited that Wendy has stepped up as the Project Coordinator.

“Diabetes is a major issue among our Tribe and across Indian Country,” said Tribal Councilwoman Cheryl Frye-Cromwell who is also serving as the Study Co-Investigator. “Wendy is a great addition to the team. She understands our Tribe’s health issues very well and will be instrumental in moving the study forward.”

The program is still in the initial phase of the three-phase qualitative and quantitative study and Tribal Health are looking for female Tribal Members who are

18 years of age or older that had gestational diabetes while pregnant that are willing to participate.

In Phase One of the study participants will attend a 45-90 minute focus group and/or interviews with up to 30 other woman with prior gestational diabetes in pregnancy. In Phase Two the study team will develop an intervention to reduce the risk of diabetes and heart disease and in Phase Three, they will test the intervention for feasibility and acceptability with the 30 participants.

According to the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), Native Americans are twice as likely to develop type 2 diabetes than non natives. Native Americans with diabetes can experience devastating complications, including heart disease and stroke, blindness, chronic kidney disease and amputations. Gestational diabetes, the type being researched in this study, only appears in pregnant women and develops in up to 10 percent of pregnancies. It usually disappears when the pregnancy is over. However, if not treated, it can cause problems for mothers and babies.

If you would like to participate in the study or have questions, please contact Project Coordinator Wendy Pocknett at (508) 477-0208 or email wpocknett@mw-tribe.com.

Diabetes 101 Workshops

The Tribal Health Department will be hosting two diabetes workshops on Wednesday, February 18 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Diabetes 101 Workshops will provide attendees with important information that you should now about this disease and important prevention and management techniques. The program facilitator is Albert Whitaker from the American Diabetes Association and all are highly encouraged to attend. Please call Tribal Health at (508) 477-0208 x 103 to sign up.

Reminder: Bring ID to Election

According to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Election Ordinance, Section 7, (3) all registered Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal voters must remember to bring their federal, state or Mashpee Tribal Government- issued photo identification on February 8, 2015.

Thank You,
2015 Election Committee



Tribal Employees Speak Wôpanâak!

Two dozen tribal staffers have enrolled in the new beginner language classes offered each week by the Language Department's Wôpanâôt8âôk (Wampanoag Language) teaching team. Volunteer linguistic director and tribal vice chair Jessie Baird is co-teaching a Tuesday afternoon beginner class (2:30-3:30pm) with linguist-in-residence Eleanor "Toodie" Jackson Coombs, with linguists-in-residence Siobhan Brown and Brian Weeden offering a second team-taught beginner class on Wednesday afternoons (2:30-3:30). Additional beginner classes open to tribal employees and Wampanoag household members from Mashpee, Herring Pond, Assonet

& Aquinnah are offered weekdays Wednesday mornings (10:30-11:30am) by linguist-in-residence Tia Pocknett, and Friday mornings (10:30-11:30am) by Curriculum Manager Nitana Hicks. The Language Department plans to offer new beginner language classes each quarter this year, with the second round of opportunities beginning in mid-late March 2015. For more information call the Language Department teaching team at (508) 477-0208 ext. 176

For a list of all Wôpanâôt8âôk (Wampanoag Language) classes offered in Mashpee, Boston, etc., visit www.wlrp.org.

Mental Health and Stigma

Negative attitudes and beliefs toward others who have a mental health condition are very common. This is called stigma. Stigma is a mark of disgrace, shame or disapproval that sets a person apart and results in discrimination.

Harmful effects of stigma

- ✓ Causes pain and confusion
- ✓ Reluctance to seek help or treatment
- ✓ The belief that you will never be able to succeed at certain challenges or that you can't improve your situation
- ✓ Can lead to the rejection of family and friends which can be devastating as social support is key to recovery
- ✓ Discrimination or physical harassment due to stigma can lead to distress which in turn can affect one's health further

How to deal with stigma

- ✓ Get treatment - Don't let the fear of being labeled prevent you from seeking help. Treatment can provide relief by identifying what's wrong and reducing symptoms that interfere with your work and personal life.
- ✓ Don't detach yourself from others - Friends, family and community can

help. They can offer support and understanding. Reach out to those you trust.

- ✓ Don't allow stigma to create self-doubt and shame - You may believe your illness is a sign of personal weakness that you should be able to control without any help. Educating yourself, seeking help and connecting with others can help in building self-esteem and overcoming destructive thoughts of self.
- ✓ Speak out against stigma - Remember that stigma arises from a lack of understanding and not knowing the facts. Speaking out can encourage others with similar challenges and educate the public about mental illness.
- ✓ Join a support group

Seek help in an environment that honors you, your culture and the significance of that culture to your mental health. Contact Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit - Behavioral Health - at (508) 477-6967 to speak with Clinical Therapists Nadine Phillips Smart or PumukQien Collins.

SHINE Counselor at Tribe

Tribal Health will have a trained SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) counselor on site at The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center starting Tuesday, February 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Shine counselors are trained to help you understand your Medicare Plans and answer any questions you may have regard-

ing your Medicare Prescription Coverage (Medicare Part D), screen you for assistance programs and discuss other options you may have on all aspects of health insurance to anyone on Medicare.

To schedule a SHINE appointment at the Tribal Government Center, please call Wendy Pocknett at (508) 477 0208 x 166

WLRP/Language Update

Please mark your calendar for the following upcoming WLRP Language events:

Wôpanâak Language Charter School Forum

Wednesday, February 18, 2015
from 5:00-6:30 pm
at Mashpee Public Library,
64 Steeple St. Mashpee

Learn about local opportunities for elementary education in the Wôpanâak language! The Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project and Weetumu Wôpanâak Charter School founding trustees are opening a year-round language immersion school in August 2016. The proposed school will enroll K-1 students for the 2016-2017 Academic Year, and will expand by one grade annually to serve middle school students. This presentation by WWCS organizers will include a Q&A session about our project-based curriculum model and many other topics. For more information and additional upcoming community language forums visit www.wlrp.org/events.html or call Jennifer Weston at (508) 477-0208 ext. 168

Wôpanâôt8âtôh! (Let's Talk Wôp!): Family Immersion Day

Saturday, February 21, 2015
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
20 Black Brook Road, Aquinnah

Come together to have family fun while learning your language! ALL AGES are encouraged to attend this immersion day to challenge yourself and others to speak Wôpanâak for the day. This is a FREE EVENT with 3 blocks of classes, including one for 5-12 year olds. LUNCH & SNACKS will be provided. OPEN TO ALL members of a Wampanoag household, including non-tribal partners, stepchildren, foster parents, etc. Register by February 9th, 2015. Contact Tia Pocknett to register or for more information: tpocknett@wlrp.org (508) 477-0208 ext. 176

Visit www.wlrp.org/events.html for upcoming Family Immersion Day events on the Cape!



Principles of Peacemaking

P eacemaking can be a traditional option in the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Court. There are 10 Principles of Peacemaking and each one is vital to the success of Peacemaking. For the next several months, the “Principles of Peacemaking” written by Douglas Noll, will be shared in the Mittark for Tribal Members to view and become familiar with them and how they work. A complete list can be obtained from Tribal Court.

1. Peacemaking seeks long term sustainable solutions rather than polite agreements or uneasy and fragile truces to difficult conflicts. Many times, people avoid the difficult work of conflict by layering over the problem with a superficial, nice fix. Peacemaking takes on the painful, difficult, and sometime frightening aspect of conflict directly.

2. In peacemaking, truth telling and truth seeking are honored, integrity is valued, and trust is given because it is earned. People learn in the peacemaking process to speak from their hearts and minds what they

have personally experienced. They are honored for revealing difficult truths when they could brush over them. The peacemaker instills this value in the process and insists on a commitment to truth telling from everyone participating in the process.

3. Peacemaking offers an opportunity to explore and discover that which is as yet unimagined. In many conflicts, the conflict issues are forbidden subjects to talk about because the anxiety of dealing with them is too uncomfortable. Peacemaking allows that anxiety to be contained and managed. As a result, people sense relief at being able to talk about issues that have irked them, sometimes for years. Furthermore, peacemaking allows new visions and ideas about relationships to be explored and perhaps created. The process permits discovery of ideas and solutions that before seemed unimaginable.

Principles of Peacemaking is part of a series submitted monthly by our Peacemakers.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Court

Most Tribal Members are aware that we have an active Tribal Court. However, what most members do not realize is that the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Court is an equal but separate branch of government to the Legislative Branch (Tribal Council). Many believe that the Tribal Court is a department within the organization. When you review the organizational chart however, you will notice that the Tribal Court is not listed under the heading of the Tribal Council. Tribal Court has its own organizational chart. In the Constitution this design of government was intentional. Separation of government branches frees Tribal Court from the influence of Tribal Council at the Bench and allows the Judges to make rulings based on Law.

The Constitution and the Judicial Ordinance(s) also allows for three Supreme Court Judges, who hear Appeals from the Lower Court and Election cases. The District Court (lower level court) currently hears civil cases, which has one District Court Judge. Also, the Tribal Court employs a Court Clerk, who has always been an important member of the court function and works with the Judges and the EJC to keep the court operational and efficient.

The Office of the Elders Judiciary Committee (EJC) oversees the Tribal Court and consists of seven (7) tribal members.

The EJC also works with the Chief Judge in developing the infrastructure for the courts, budgets, and administrative orders. The Tribal Court also maintains an Advisory Board of eight (8) members. The Advisory Board meets with the EJC on a quarterly basis and is the “think tank” that shares ideas and concerns regarding the development of the courts.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Court is proud of its Peacemaking Court. Peacemaking Court is a completely voluntary process used to resolve disputes. Thanks to the funding of the ANA SEDS grant, it is in the process of being fully developed. More structure, information and training will be completed to ensure the success of this program. The first year of the grant will provide funding to develop informational material for all Tribal Members. The second year of the grant will allow for the development of a larger pool of Peacemakers to complement the original pool of Peacemakers who currently hear disputes. The Court believes that Peacemaking, a more traditional way to resolve disputes, is currently the best way to handle conflict. It allows all parties to be heard, and brings a solution which is agreeable to all parties.

Tribal Members Complete OSHA Certification

As reported in the last issue of the Mittark, MWT-WIA (employment & Training) held an OSHA 10 Construction Safety Certification course on December 17 -18, 2014. The class was made available to Tribal and non-tribal members and provided at no cost to our Tribe.

The class was sponsored by the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) with support from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the instructor was Mr. Emmett Russell, of Maryland.

In total 10 Tribal members and one non-tribal member successfully completed the class. Having an OSHA 10 card allows Tribal members to work on federally funded construction projects and is look upon favorably by those employers who are contracted for privately funded projects.

For at least four of the eleven participants, this was the first step in a career path which includes receiving DOT cards, preparing for the hoisting license exam, and possible training for CDL licensure. In addition, these Tribal members will be registered with the Tribe’s TERO office (Angela Shwom, Director), which is charged with ensuring that qualified Tribal members are employed on our construction projects.

So, congratulations to Tribal members: Manny Miranda, Jarell Ervin, Mika Miranda, Michael Maxim, Brett Cardoza, Deidre Lopez, Greg Joseph, Stanley Dutra, Marlon Hendricks and Ann Marie Askew.



Unity in Our Community: Inaugural Youth Conference

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Youth Council hosted a two-day youth conference on Saturday, December 27 and Sunday, December 28 at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. The event was packed with great workshops on leadership and culture; all led by our Tribal Youth.

Tribal Youth Council Chairwoman Danna Jackson; Vice Chairman Douglas Pocknett, Jr.; Co-Secretary Autumn Jackson ; Co-Secretary Chenoa Peters; and Treasurer Ciara Jackson organized the conference.



Chairman Cedric Cromwell and Vice Chairwoman Jessie Baird welcomed our youth and Brian Weeden, UNITY co-president, provided a language workshop.

By all accounts the inaugural conference was a success and instilled a sense of pride in the work our Youth Council is doing.



Unity in Our Community was modeled after the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) conference that focused on the theme of "Healing and Empowering Aspiring Leaders with Tradition and Heritage." The topics, activities and workshops provided our youth with a frame and tools to develop the successful conference and tailor it to our Tribe.



19th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Ball

Save the date for the 19th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Ball which will be held on Saturday, March 21 at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in North Falmouth. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the festivities are scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. This year's theme will be "Celebrating our Circle of Life."

Tickets can now be purchased at Puritan Clothing in the Mashpee Commons and at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. Tickets for our elders are \$20 and general admission tickets are \$30.

There are a limited number of hotel rooms that are available at a reduced rate of \$99 plus tax until February 21. To reserve a room at the group rate, call the hotel at (508) 540-9400, or visit www.seacrestbeachhotel.com and use the reservation code "Wampanoag Tribe Ball."

Formal dress is required for this event and you must be 21 years of age or older to attend. ID will be requested as you enter the hall. The Wampanoag Ball Committee hopes you will attend, eat, dance and have a great time.

In addition to general admission tickets, a limited number of VIP tables are available for \$1,000. For more information about the 19th Annual Wampanoag Ball, please call the Tribe at (508) 477-0208



Election *(continued)*

Voting Hours:

Enrolled, Registered Tribal Elders:
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Enrolled, Registered Tribal Members:
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location:

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center
483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, MA 02649

Six (6) Tribal Council Seats:
Tribal Council Member

A "Meet the Candidates" forum was held on Saturday, January 24 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Community and Government Center where all of the candidates had an opportunity to discuss important issues facing our Tribe and what they plan to do if elected.



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