



# Nashauonk Mittark™



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April 2015

DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY

## Chairman's Column



Dear Tribal Family,

We are passing through a critical intersection on the road to economic self-sufficiency, and our annual budget is the vehicle that will help get us from here to there.

In this issue of the Mittark you can read about the Tribal Council's proposed budget getting the approval of the majority of Tribal Citizens at our General Membership meeting on Sunday, March 8. That vote not only gave our annual budget the green-light but, I believe, it also represents a vote of confidence in the direction we are heading.

Thanks to the hard work of our Tribal Finance Team, led by Treasurer Robert Hendricks, Sr., as well as our Comptroller Milton Pratt, Finance Department Director Marjorie Seagraves and her staff, the budget is balanced, even as we are expanding services to better serve our people.

How were we able to do that?

We did it by finding efficiencies and savings through smart planning.

A good example of that is the \$73,000 rebate and recognition award that will be presented to us this month by the Cape Light Compact, the primary electricity supplier on Cape Cod. One of the programs they offer provides incentives for businesses and developers to go above and beyond state and local building codes in the construction of energy-efficient buildings.

The rebate money we are getting from the Cape Light Compact is because when we built our 46,000 square-foot Community & Government Center we were able to meet specific energy efficient benchmarks in over a dozen areas - from high-efficiency lighting and

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Harlem Rockets Inspire Capacity Crowd

**M**arch madness descended upon Mashpee on Sunday, March 22 with a capacity crowd cheering and laughing as the Harlem Rockets took on the Mashpee Wampanoag Dream Team during a fundraiser to benefit our Elders Department.

The event raised money for our Elders Committee, several of whom served as pom-pom waving cheerleaders in support of team Tribe. While the Harlem Rockets, a traveling basketball team similar to the Harlem Globetrotters, pulled out the victory 68-50, our Dream Team provided the audience with a few highlight reels of their own.

At 6-foot-7, Niko Hendricks, a former high school basketball star, threw down a dunk to score the Dream Team's first bucket. And while our squad put up a good fight, no one expected them to beat the traveling hoop wizards whose "Twin Towers" Super Marial Dahl and Shagari Alleyne - a pair of 7-footers - helped lead the Rockets to victory.

Still, judging by the smiles on the faces of the kids and adults in attendance after an afternoon of trick shots, spinning basketball balls, laughter, and a halftime show of music and dancing, everyone left a winner.

We rely on our Elder's wisdom for so many things and they were wise to organize this fantastic display of community fun. By all accounts our Dream Team played well enough to earn a rematch.

Before the game, the Rockets put on a clinic for tribal youth where they carried their anti-bullying message and emphasized the importance of teamwork on and off the court.



Rockets player James "Speedy" Williams even managed to show a few kids how to spin the ball on the tip of their fingers.

The Elders in our Tribe love our youth. In their wisdom, they came up with a creative way to help fund the many activities our Elders are involved in, while transmitting the values of teamwork and family in a fun way. And by opening our doors to non-tribe members they are also modeling the importance of community.

## Efficient Design Wins Award & Rebate



The Cape Light Compact will present a \$72,795 check and honorary plaque to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe for the Tribe's exemplary environmental stewardship in the building of an energy efficient Community & Government Center. The presentation will be made during a ceremony held at the Community and Government Center on Tuesday, April 21 at 11:00 a.m.

*(Continued on page 8)*



## Events Calendar

### New Events

**April 9 - 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
CPR Training - RSVP to Donald Peters at [dpeters@mwtribe.com](mailto:dpeters@mwtribe.com), MWTCGC

**April 12 - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
General Body Meeting and Budget Vote, MWTCGC

**April 16 - 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
Wôpanâak Language Charter School Forum, Mashpee Public Library

**April 17, 18, and 19**  
Native Tribal Scholars Spring Retreat, UMass Amherst

**April 21 - 11:00 a.m.**  
Environmental Recognition Ceremony, School Forum, MWTCGC

**May 2 - 11:00 a.m.**  
Wampanoag New Year, Old Indian Meeting House

**May 16 - 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Ball, MWTCGC

### Weekly Events

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

**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.



## Tribal Announcements



» On November 10, 2014, the Tribal Court welcomed **Michele Forrester** as the new Tribal Court Clerk. Michele is an enrolled member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and has over twenty-eight (28) years of experience working in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts trial court. She graduated from Colorado Technical University in 2005, Summa Cum Laude, with a degree in Human Resource Management, and a focus on Mediation and Arbitration. She is currently the Vice Chairperson of the Wampanoag Language Reclamation Project, and a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Museum Committee. Michele is a descendant of the Hammond Family, and has raised two daughters, Mikala and Lexi Murad.

## Enrollment Department Needs Current Info

**I**f you have moved or changed telephone numbers, please contact the Enrollment Department at (508) 477-0208 or drop by and complete a change of address form. Rita Lopez, Enrollment Director, and her staff strive to keep all members informed of events and services offered by way of mail and email by keeping current contact information on all Tribal Members. If you are not receiving mail from the tribe or know

someone who is not please contact us.

Over the past year we have been auditing our records. As part of the audit, we will be sending out letter's requesting members to submit missing, required documentation for member folders. If you have been married, divorced, had a legal name change within the past 3 years please feel free to send a copy of any legal documents to the attention of the Enrollment Department.

## Budget Passed at March 8 Meeting

At the March 8 General Membership Meeting our annual budget was passed. Of the 114 Tribal Citizens who cast ballots, 73 voted yes, while 41 voted no.

Budget votes are never unanimous but Chairman Cedric Cromwell understood how important it is that the Tribe vote. "I believe the passage of this budget speaks to the general sense of confidence in the progress and direction of our Tribe," said Chairman Cromwell following the vote.

Putting together the budget proposal is an arduous task. So, we want to thank our Tribal Finance Team, led by Treasurer Robert Hendricks, Sr., as well as our Comptroller Milton Pratt, Finance Department Director Marjorie Seagraves and her staff for the hard work they put in to make sure we presented a balanced budget.

Ultimately, a majority Tribal Citizens affirmed that this budget reflects our current priorities by funding the programs and providing the resources our people need - from healthcare and education to elder services and an array of expanded social services.

Chairman Cromwell added, "As we move forward, my administration remains committed to the sacred obligation we have to be responsible financial stewards. We will continue to aggressively pursue grants that are available to us and look for ways to maximize what we have already built - a prime example being our energy efficient Community & Government Center, which is saving us thousands of dollars in utility costs and is now being recognized as a model of smart development both inside and outside Indian Country."

**"...passage of this budget speaks to the general sense of confidence..."**

*- Chairman Cromwell*

## WLRP Info Session on April 16

On Thursday, April 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP) will hold an information session at the Mashpee Public Library.

The Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project and Weetumuw Wôpanâak Charter School founding trustees are opening a year-round language immersion school in August 2016. The proposed public elementary school will enroll K-3 students for the 2016-2017 Academic Year, and will expand by one grade annually to serve middle school students. These public presentations by WWCS organizers will include a Q&A session about our project-based curriculum model and many other topics.

For more information and to get involved as a parent, adviser, or trustee please visit [www.wlrp.org](http://www.wlrp.org) or call WWCS charter developer Jennifer Weston at (508) 477-0208 ext. 168. Additional dates for the info session include:

Tuesday, May 12 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Falmouth Public Library

Thursday, May 14 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community & Government Center

Thursday, May 21 6:30-8:30 p.m. (TBD - New Bedford Public Library or MWT)

## WLRP Family Immersion Day

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

Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Watuppa Reservation due by May 9

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. POTLUCK items are welcomed, especially for those with dietary restrictions.

Open to all members of a Wampanoag household, including non-tribal members. Register online at [www.wlrp.org/events.html](http://www.wlrp.org/events.html) or contact Tia Pocknett for more information: (508) 477-0208 ext. 176 or [tpocknett@wlrp.org](mailto:tpocknett@wlrp.org).

## Chairman's Column *(continued)*

controls, heating, cooling and ventilation to energy efficient window systems, insulation and indoor air quality.

Kudos to the Clerk of the Works overseeing the construction of our Community & Government Center David Greene, and to Michael Maxim, our Facilities Director, for their foresight and collaborative work with the Cape Light Compact.

My administration remains committed to the sacred obligation we have to be responsible financial stewards and as we move forward, we will continue to aggressively pursue available grant money and look for other ways to maximize what we have already built.

One of the things I'm most proud of in this budget is the \$250,000 that was earmarked to help place Tribe members battling addiction into transitional sober homes. We have lost too many loved-ones to the scourge of substance abuse and I am proud to say we have a team of dedicated Tribal employees working hard to provide the resources and support needed to overcome the disease of addiction.

Now, you may have heard me say that budgets are not simply accounting statements filled with numbers. A budget is really a statement of priorities and values. It's a document that lays out how limited resources get allocated in way that gives us the biggest bang for our buck.

So, whether it be our efforts to combat substance abuse, the \$200,000 allocated to fund our Tribal Native Scholars Program (our Native Tribal Scholars Spring Retreat is scheduled for Friday, April 17 to Sunday, April 19 at UMass Amherst), the \$270,000 added to the federal grant money we received for housing assistance, or the \$227,000 we are putting aside for hardship emergency services - the point of these in-

vestments is to do just that: give us the biggest bang for our buck as we strive to preserve our culture, honor our elders, educate our youth, cultivate holistic health for every Tribal citizen, and lay the foundation for a more prosperous future.

On that last point, naturally the budget also contains vital funds (\$1.5 million) our Tribal Gaming Commission will need in anticipation of getting land into trust this year, which will trigger federally mandated hiring and licensing fees associated with building our First Light casino project in Taunton.

This is money set-aside that will only be used when we break ground. It's a necessary investment that reflects we are moving closer to establishing sovereign tribal lands on which we can build a money-making engine that will ultimately drive us to economic self-sufficiency. So be sure to check out the article in this issue that provides an overview on where we stand with our land-into-trust application and the status of Project First Light.

Last but not least, please don't overlook the economic development initiatives outside of our pursuit to build a world-class destination resort casino - a prime example being the development of tribal entrepreneurs through WIA, which hosted an Entrepreneur Workshop in early March that's covered in these pages.

While the road to economic independence may be filled with potholes, traffic, and other temporary detours, I am confident this budget keeps us cruising forward on the freeway to our future.

Kutâputunumuw;

Cedric Cromwell  
Qaqeemasq (*Running Bear*)

## Is it Time for a New Tribal ID?

**M**embers should get a new ID if they still have the older laminated ID as they are no longer valid. ID's expire every 5 years and cost \$15 cash only. You can get an ID at any age and if you are over 55 years old the ID is free, you can also sign up to vote when you come in. Appointments are preferred please call ahead at (508) 477-0208 x173 as we could be unavailable or in a meeting.

## Notice from CCDF

The Cape Cod Child Development Fund waitlist is updated each July. If you would like to add your name to the waitlist for child care support, please contact Child Care Program Manager Marcy Hendricks at [mahendricks@mwtribe.com](mailto:mahendricks@mwtribe.com) or call (508) 477-0208 x 160 or you may contact Program Assistant Eileen Miranda at [emiranda@mwtribe.com](mailto:emiranda@mwtribe.com) at (508) 477-0208 x 152. Also, please let us know if your contact information has changed

## Free OSHA Training

**M**ashpee Wampanoag Employment and Training Department will be hosting free Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training for enrolled and unenrolled Tribal Members, family and spouses. The two-day program will be held on Friday, May 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Community and Government Center. Space is limited and must be reserved. Please contact the Employment and Training Department at (508) 477-0208 x170 to confirm your space by Friday, April 24.

WIA, in conjunction with the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) with support from OSHA, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is offering this free safety course for individuals in the construction trades.

The roadway construction focused OSHA 10-hour training program includes prevention of safety and health hazards in the workplace, information regarding workers' rights and employer responsibilities.

Participants will also receive 3 hours of "Preventing Runovers and Backovers" a comprehensive training program designed to keep roadway construction workers safe from being struck by construction trucks and equipment.

This training helps give employees the information they need to be able to identify and correct hazards they may encounter in a construction environment by focusing on key safety issues, this interactive training will help sharpen participant skills and better prepare them for work in what can be a hazardous occupation.

DOL-OSHA course completion cards will be provided to participants upon graduation. For more information or to reserve a seat, please contact the Employment and Training Administrative Clerk Mika Miranda at (508) 477-0208 x161.

## Youth Ball Set

The 3rd Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Youth Ball will be held on Saturday, May 16 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Tribe's Community and Government Center. The theme of this year's Youth Ball is a "masquerade" and formal dress is required. Award nomination forms will be available at the tribal building and Indian Education Office at Mashpee High School starting April 10 and are due Friday, May 8. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. For more information or to volunteer, send an email to the Youth Council at [mwtyouthcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:mwtyouthcouncil@gmail.com).

## Principles of Peacemaking

*(continued from February and March)*

The last four Principles below are a continuation of the "Principles of Peacemaking" written by Douglas Noll. The purposes of the Principles are to increase knowledge and understanding about the Peacemaking process for our Tribal members. One of the key aspects of Peacemaking is making sure the environment is safe for all parties engaged in the process. The parties involved come to a mutual agreement about the issue at hand that allows them to heal their relationship.

7. The peacemaker must create a place where people are able to approach, rather than freeze, flee, or fight. Peacemakers, knowledgeable in the neuropsychology of the environment on preconscious brain processes. Peacemakers are therefore charged with the duty of controlling environments that allow people to approach one another, rather than to defend against one another.

8. Peacemaking seeks to disenfranchise, or confront in a process of controlled escalation, those who seek unfair advantage, who exploit racial or class or gender differences and who prefer to maintain disparities that favor them. Justice is a core value of peacemaking. Resolution without justice does not resolve conflict: it is simply a demonstration of which party holds greater power. A peacemaker's values and integrity

may require that the process be shutdown. Some conflicts are such that they must be escalated before peacemaking will be possible. The peacemaker recognizes this and therefore does not sacrifice justice for expediency.

9. Peacemaking involves risks, not the least of which is failure. No guarantees can ever be made that peace will be restored between parties. Every conflict contains the seeds of further escalation that may take root despite the best efforts of everyone. However, the risk of failure is never a deterrent to the attempt at peace, especially when peace seems hopeless.

10. Peacemaking requires tremendous courage by those faced with difficult conflict. Conflict causes people to fear others as well as themselves. What people detest in others is what is inside of them. Thus to confront others is to confront the same thing within. People know this intuitively, but cannot articulate it. This fear is why so many people avoid peacemaking; they do not have the courage to face themselves, their secret inadequacies, and their deepest fears. Peacemaking is not easy nor is it soft.

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

## Government & Community Center Recognized for Efficiency *(continued)*

The Cape Light Compact will present a \$72,795 check and honorary plaque to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe for the Tribe's exemplary environmental stewardship in the building of an energy efficient Community & Government Center. The presentation will be made during a ceremony held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center on Monday, March 13 at 11 AM. Members of the Tribe are welcome to attend.

In February 2014, the 46,000-square-foot Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community & Government Center opened its doors for the first time on the 55-acres of tribe-owned land where the previous tribal offices were located. In the design and construction of the Community & Government Center, the Tribe decided to par-

ticipate in the regional electricity supplier's Commercial & Industrial Energy Efficiency Program.

This program provides incentives for businesses and developers to go above and beyond state and local building codes as it relates to energy-efficiency. To qualify for the rebate, the Tribe had to meet specific energy efficient benchmarks in over a dozen areas - from high-efficiency lighting, heating and ventilation to energy efficient windows, hot water system, and office equipment.



## *Celebrating* OUR CIRCLE OF LIFE

For the past 19 years, the annual Mashpee Wampanoag Ball has been a joyous occasion.

This year's Ball was once again a sold-out affair, bringing together family and friends sharing food, music and dance. As we've done each year, we also honored those who support our goals to preserve our community and work towards unity.

In keeping with this year's "Circle of Life" theme, the proceeds from the Ball will go towards building a safe and fun playground next to our Community & Government Center in Mashpee for our children.

Often overlooked, outside of our tribal community, are the sensational people honored at our Ball. We want to pay special tribute to this year's award recipients:

- » **Warren Griffin, Jr.**, Lew Gurwitz Spirit Award, given to a non-tribal community member for their unselfish devotion and friendship to the Mashpee Wampanoag.
- » **Professor Morgan James Peters**, Mashpee Wampanoag Business and Professionalism Award recipient.
- » **Clan Mother Anita "Mother Bear" Peters**, Alice May Lopez Advocacy and Volunteerism Award.
- » **Antone "Tony" Perry**, Osemequen Award for his dedication in the preservation of our culture and history.

**We thank this year's award recipients for their service.**

We also wish to thank the Mashpee Wampanoag Ball Committee for all of their hard-work in organizing such a wonderful community celebration, as well as the Sea Crest Beach Resort Hotel of Falmouth for hosting our annual gala.

*Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman - Cedric Cromwell*

## WIA Hosts Entrepreneurial Workshop

**O**n Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7 the Employment and Training Department at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe held a powerful workshop at the Community and Government Center for Native Americans that are starting up or running a small business. The two-day workshop was provided through a partnership with the Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Native American Affairs and facilitated by RedWind, a firm that provides business development training across the country.

The workshop covered business concepts indispensable for anyone starting up or running a small business. The instructors from RedWind - Kyle Smith and Chris Smith - identified and helped the 16 participants build a successful business plan. The training provided comprehensive information on topics important to aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners related to business planning, access to capital, basic bookkeeping, human resources, problem solving and marketing a small business.



Employment and Training Director Yvonne Marie Tobey along with Administrative Clerk Mika Miranda organized the workshop and provided guidance to the Native Entrepreneurs.

Yvonne was pleased with the growth each participant exhibited and the takeaways they pulled from the training. "We work hard to organize a range of programs that benefit the various professional goals our Tribal Members have and this includes business owners," said Yvonne. "We have so much talent and entrepreneurial spirit within our people and this training provided every participant with a solid base for building a successful business and challenged them to fine tune their business plan to ensure it's a success. I'm looking forward to seeing these businesses grow as we move forward."

Both Mashpee and Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribal Members and their family members attended the workshop. The participants included Stanley Dutra, Sherry Pocknett, Rus-

sell Peters and his wife Kate Mercurio, Alicia Imhof, Winona Hendricks, Kathleen Miranda, Robyn Stamps, Angela Shwom, Steven Peters, Jeffery Craddock, Karen Craddock, Steven Craddock, Bettina Washington and Nefititi Jette. The hands-on-workshop provided opportunities for everyone to build, fine-tune, present and receive feedback on their business.



The WIA staff and director Yvonne Marie Tobey are dedicated to providing its members with the tools they need to become self-sufficient and self-reliant through gainful employment. The department accomplishes this by partnering with the Cape and Islands Workforce Investment board and the Career Opportunities program. In addition, the Mashpee WIA department assists adults with obtaining basic skills instruction and GED preparation. For more information about WIA and its programs, please visit [www.mashpee-wampanoagtribe.com](http://www.mashpee-wampanoagtribe.com) or call the department at (508) 477-0208 x 161.



## DOMESTIC / INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE - PART I

**D**omestic Violence occurs among all types of families, regardless of income, profession, region, ethnicity, educational level or race. On average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States – more than 12 million women and men over the course of a year. As much as 3 in every 10 women and one in every 10 men experience some form of domestic violence. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

» **Physical Abuse:** Hitting, slapping, shoving, grabbing, pinching, biting, hair-pulling, etc. Physical abuse also includes denying a partner medical care or forcing alcohol and/or drug use.

» **Sexual Abuse:** Coercing or attempting

to coerce any sexual contact or behavior without consent. Sexual abuse includes, but is certainly not limited to marital rape, attacks on sexual parts of the body, forcing sex after physical violence has occurred, or treating one in a sexually demeaning manner.

» **Emotional Abuse:** Undermining an individual's sense of self-worth and/or self-esteem. This may include, but is not limited to constant criticism, diminishing one's abilities, name-calling, or damaging one's relationship with his or her children.

» **Economic Abuse:** Making or attempting to make an individual financially dependent by maintaining total control over financial resources, withholding one's access to money, or forbidding one's attendance at school or employment.

» **Psychological Abuse:** Causing fear by intimidation; threatening physical harm to self, partner, children, or partner's family or friends; destruction of pets and property;

and forcing isolation from family, friends, or school and/or work.

The effects of domestic violence are possible to overcome. It may require facing painful realities, but you will discover new inner strengths, a process that needs time, space and safety to begin. With healing, developing strong positive coping mechanisms and taking care of self, such reactions tend to become less severe and it is possible to reclaim positive relationships with others and yourself.


















*Upcoming issue of Mittark: Part II - Impact of Domestic Violence on adults and children.*

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

## Land in Trust and Gaming Accomplishments



We've reached the final stage of our land in trust application and our pursuit to open a destination resort casino...two projects that are closely tied and that will bring our people many opportunities. With any project of this size and scope it needs to be broken down into phases to ensure we have crossed all of our T's and dotted our I's and rest assured we have. Below is a sample of the phases we've completed over the past few years.

Final Phase	Tribe approved to break ground on Project First Light Destination Resort Casino	
Final Phase	Secretary of Interior approves Application for Land in Trust	
March 2015	Tribal members approve construction funds in annual budget vote for Project First Light	
January 2015	Massachusetts approves Final Environmental Impact Report	
December 2014	Final Environmental Impact Report submitted to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office	
November 2014	Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approves Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)	
September 2014	BIA releases FEIS. Public comment period through October 2014	
January 2014	Interior Department approves compact with Commonwealth of Massachusetts	
December 2013	BIA holds public hearing on Draft Environmental Impact Statements in Mashpee and Taunton	
May 2013	BIA finalized federal guidelines for processing land in trust	
February 2013	Department of Interior release preliminary advisory opinion that confirms land will qualify as an initial reservation	
December 2012	BIA completes initial review of land in trust	
July 2012	Environmental Notification Form filed with state. Comprehensive review starts. Tribe initiates exhaustive planning and environmental analysis	
June 2012	Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Taunton became effective	
June 2012	Taunton voters approve Tribe's plan for a destination resort casino	
May 2012	Intergovernmental Agreement reached with the City of Taunton	
May 2012	Tribe submits revised land in trust application to the BIA	

## New Language Classes for Spring

Below are a list of new classes starting in April that are being held in the Community and Government Center.

### Subject: Everyday Wôpanâak

Time: Tuesday evenings, 5:30PM - 6:30PM starts Tuesday, April 7

*This class will help individuals develop basic language-conversational skills in regards to everyday life activities; i.e. shopping, expressing basic emotions, etc. This class has NO PRE-REQUISITES - ALL LEVELS WELCOMED*  
 Instructor: Tia Pocknett, (508) 477-0208 x176 or [tpocknett@wlrp.org](mailto:tpocknett@wlrp.org) for questions

### Subject: Animate Intransitive Workbook Class

Time: Tuesday evenings, 7:00PM - 8:00PM starts Tuesday, April 7

Pre-Requisite: Beginner Workbook Class  
 Instructor: Nitana Greendeer, 508-477-0208 x176 or [nhicks@wlrp.org](mailto:nhicks@wlrp.org).

Below are new classes being held in the New Bedford MWT Conference Room.

### Subject: Beginner Workbook Class

Time: Tuesday evenings, 6:30PM - 7:30PM Starts Tuesday, April 14

Instructor: Melanie Roderick, [melanie.roderick@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.roderick@gmail.com)

### Subject: Inanimate Intransitive Workbook Class

Time: Tuesday evenings, 7:45PM - 9:00PM Starts Tuesday, April 14

Pre-Requisite: Beginner Workbook Class  
 Instructor: Melanie Roderick, [melanie.roderick@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.roderick@gmail.com)

Below are new classes being held in Boston at the Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave. Classroom 3A-4.

### Subject: Inanimate Intransitive Workbook Class

Time: Thursday evenings, 6:30PM Thursday, April 9 to May 28

*Students will learn how to speak about the weather, colors, texture of objects, etc.*  
 Pre-Requisite: Beginner Workbook Class  
 Instructor: Siobhan Brown, (508) 477-0208 x176 or [sbrown@wlrp.org](mailto:sbrown@wlrp.org).

## Celebrating Our Circle of Life

**T**he 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Wampanoag Ball was held on Saturday, March 21. Once again the Ball was held at the Sea Crest Beach Resort Hotel in Falmouth. Thanks to the great work of our Ball Committee, the event continues to be an occasion within our Tribe to come together with family, friends and neighboring tribes in the spirit of Community and Unity.

In addition to being a celebration, the Ball provides needed funds to a select program or service. With great consideration, the Ball Committee has decided that this year's proceeds will directly benefit the construction of a playground to be built near our Community and Government Center. The intent of dedicating funds toward a Tribal playground is for our young ones to have a safe and secure area outside our new, state-of-the-art building to enjoy being a youth.

If you would like to make a direct donation towards the construction of the playground, please send a check to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe attention Ball Committee at 483 Great Neck Road, South, Mashpee, MA 02649 or contact Wampanoag Ball Commit-

tee Chairwoman Suzette Spinola at (508) 360-2578.

Unfortunately, the acts of a few individuals at the end of the evening overshadowed the hard work of our Ball Committee and the good times we all shared that evening. The Ball Committee is now reviewing procedures and the event to put in place measures to ensure the ball remains an event we can all be proud of.

Here's just a few pics from what truly was a fun evening with our family and friends.



## Energy Efficient Rebate *(continued)*

Members of the Tribe are welcome to attend.

In February 2014, the 46,000-square-foot Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community & Government Center opened its doors for the first time on the 55-acres of tribe-owned land where the previous tribal offices were located. In the design and construction of the Community & Government Center, the Tribe decided to participate in the regional electricity supplier's Commercial & Industrial Energy Efficiency Program.

This program provides incentives for businesses and developers to go above and beyond state and local building codes as it relates to energy-efficiency. To qualify for the rebate, the Tribe had to meet specific energy efficient benchmarks in over a dozen areas - from high-efficiency lighting, heating and ventilation to energy efficient windows and heaters.

## Wampanoag New Celebration on May 2

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will celebrate the Wampanoag New Year on Saturday, May 2 at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Indian Meeting House. The theme of this year's celebration is A Symbol of New Beginnings. The event is open to all Tribal Members, family and friends. Tribal Members are asked to wear traditional regalia if possible.

Following the ceremony at the Old Indian Meeting House (OIMH), the OIMH Committee invites everyone to activities and a reception with a pot luck luncheon at the Community and Government Center.

In addition to a potluck, there will be drumming, singing, and native crafts. The OIMH Committee hopes to see everyone and please bring your favorite dish to share.

## Our Children Need You!

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Department is looking for Tribal Members that are interested in making a profound impact on the lives of Tribal Youth by becoming a foster parent. The ICWA Department is in desperate need of individuals to step forward and give our children the warm, loving and safe home they deserve. You can be a child in needs voice. Please contact Catherine Hendricks ICWA Director for more information or to become a foster parent.

If you believe in instilling culture and traditions...

If you have the time and love...

If you are Native American...

Then please give us a call and ask how to become a foster parent today.



The MWT ICWA Department is located in the Community and Government Center at 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee, MA 02649. You can also learn more online at [www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com](http://www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com) or by calling ICWA Director Catherine Hendricks at (508) 477-0208 x 144 or at [catherinehendricks@mw-tribe.com](mailto:catherinehendricks@mw-tribe.com).



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