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December 2016

DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY

Chairman's Column



Greetings Tribal Citizens,

Recent events have reaffirmed that we still live in a country that's deeply divided; it's divided by the political process and by the values that we hold sacred. How can we look at the recent political elections and not walk away understanding that a large portion of this country's population have sent a clear message about race relations? How can we watch the brutal forces our peaceful warriors are being met with at the Sacred Stone Camp at Standing Rock and not walk away understanding that this country values profit over this land and the people for which it provides for?

I've given and continue to give a lot of thought to what's taking place at the Sacred Stone Camp and it breaks my heart. At this point, I think most of us have seen the militarized police force firing rubber bullets, tear gas and water cannons from armored vehicles at peaceful human beings. I can't help but get emotional when I see elders, women, and children armed with nothing more than prayer for our mother earth, being met with a wall of terror.

We've been fighting the same battle - to protect our sovereign rights and our land - for hundreds of years and we're up against the same forces right here, today. It may not be as brutal or violent. In our struggle to hold onto our land, the forces against us are not using batons and tear gas. Their weapons of choice are lawsuits and legal technicalities. Instead of letting their dogs loose on us, they are using anti-Native lawyers and money in an attempt to chew up our land rights.

Just as members of our tribe have engaged the powers-that-be in Standing Rock to

(Continued on page 3)

Tribe Opens Doors to Friends and Family at Annual Inter-Tribal Potluck Social



Tribe to Launch "NSN.gov" Domain

"NSN.gov" doesn't seem like a big change from the current domain .com, but it is. The "NSN.gov", which stands for Native Sovereign Nation, is designed to let visitors immediately know they have reached the official web portal of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe government. The switch, which is scheduled to take place in January will

also impact email extensions, changing the address from .com to "NSN.gov" so that individuals over email will know they are communicating with an official of a Native Sovereign Nation.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Chairman Cedric Cromwell is excited about the message this sends to our friends in the US

(Continued on page 4)

Events Calendar

New Events

December 10 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Alice Lopez Christmas Craft Fair,
MWTCGC

December 11- 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
General Body Meeting, MWTCGC

January 8- 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
General Body Meeting, MWTCGC

January 11- 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Free Budget Workshop, MWTCGC

January 17- 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
FAFSA Night, 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 - 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

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

NEW Fridays - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Starting December 2
CCDF Family Paint Nights, MWTCGC

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

Tribal Departments Present to FEMA

In honor of November being Native American Heritage Month, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Management Director Nelson Andrews Jr., along with Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Ramona Peters and Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer David Weeden gave a presentation to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The presentation, which was given at FEMA's Regional office in Boston, included an overview of the Tribe's Emergency Management safeguards and a historical snapshot of the Wampanoag.

Nelson, who was originally contacted by the FEMA Region 1 office with the invitation to present, sees this annual meeting as an opportunity to strengthen department resources. "It's a goal of the joint agencies to gain a better understanding of each other and find better ways to work together going forward. Having a solid understanding of our traditions, culture and shared history along with our current practices is a solid step in the right direction," said Nelson. "This is our second year presenting to FEMA and I believe it's helping to strengthen a collaborative relationship."



L-R: Ramona Peters, Bruce Brodoff (FEMA Region 1 Tribal Liaison), Nelson Andrews Jr., Paul Ford (FEMA Region 1 Regional Administrator) and David Weeden.

Ramona also answered a question from a FEMA staff member that asked if there was a tangible method to track the previous history of the tribe from before the times when history was recorded. Ramona explained that the Mashpee Wampanoag ancestors used wampum belts to share the history and she also mentioned how some of her people were able to interpret the stories regarding the tribe's history such as previous storms that were placed into the belts.

LaVerne Wins Gift

At a fundraiser hosted by the Quashnet Elementary School in Mashpee LaVerne Jackson walked away with a nice prize. A donation LaVerne made during the event entered her into a raffle and her name was selected. She won a Patriots gift basket filled with over \$400 in prizes that included tickets to the Patriots game in December.



Alert Notification System Sign Up

The Mashpee Wampanoag tribe Emergency Preparedness Department is still updating the MWT emergency alert notification system. The Massachusetts Health and Homeland Alert Network (HHAN) is a vital notification alert system that is currently used to provide notifications and updates to tribal members. All that is required is a contact phone number and email address to be used in the event a HHAN is sent out. Please provide this information to Nelson Andrews Jr, Emergency Management Director at; 774-327-8367 or nelson.andrews@mwtribe.com.

Election Committee Seeking Volunteers

The Election Committee is currently seeking volunteers and monitors for the upcoming regular election on Sunday, February 12, 2017. If interested, please email Latoya Green at LGreen@mwtribe.com.

New Food Pantry Hours

Monday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

Friday: Closed

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: Closed

Chairman's Column *(continued)*

protect water resources, we are engaged in a battle to protect our land, sovereignty and right to self-determination.

I've also given a lot of thought to the recent presidential elections and the cabinet appointments that will be made. There's no question that the election on November 8 presented some new challenges for our tribe, our economic development initiatives, and the services we provide to our nation. These are nothing that we are not prepared to work through. We have strong relationships with people on both side of the aisle and will be meeting with our elected officials about these issues facing our community. Our economic development initiatives and our land in trust - which is still in trust and will remain in trust - will not be derailed.

I had an opportunity shortly after the elections to speak at the Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Breakfast. It was a room filled with business leaders with a personal investment in our project, the First Light Resort & Casino. Like many of you, they had questions about the project status and next steps. I was happy to talk to them about the progress we've made with the Department of Interior to amend our Record of Decision since Judge Young provided a much-needed clarification of his ruling. I also updated them on the time

line for submitting an appeal, which the U.S Government will submit by December 12. Both of these actions present a clear path forward, and while it has delayed our construction of a destination resort casino, it is only a delay.

It's easy to let these challenging times creep into our homes and our community. It's easy to let these times drag you down and loose faith in our path but we have to rise above them. I was able to rise above them at our annual Native American Thanks Giving Day Celebration. As I sat in the Old Indian Meeting House and listened to Deacon Jackson talk about the power of community, our vice chairwoman talk about all that we have overcome to remain here on our land, and friends and family giving thanks for all that we have in our tribe, I was able to rise above them. As I sat in my wooden pew, I was reminded that the issues we're facing today are not new and that we will always find a way forward on our path.

We've come so far as a tribe over the past few years. We still have a lot of work ahead of us and I see nothing but a future filled with amazing opportunities and prosperity for our people on the horizon. We have done so much already. We've brought our community closer together with our amazing Community and Gov-

ernment Center and significantly expanded the amount and quality of the services we provide to our nation. These are all achievements that we own and will continue to provide.

We're also getting ready to launch our new "NSN.gov" domain in January. While this may not seem like a big change, it's truly an exciting step forward in the foundation of our nation and a symbol of our government-to-government relationship we share with the United States of America. It also lets visitors know they have reached the official web portal of the Mashpee Wampanoag Government.

Let's continue to pray as a community for our water protectors in Standing Rock and please remember to take the time to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for as we spend time with family and friends over the holidays. There's real power in our community and nothing we can and will not accomplish if we work together. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve my people in 2016 and for the opportunity to serve you in 2017.

Kutâputunumuw,
Cedric Cromwell
Qaqemashq (Running Bear)

Stan Dutra Wins Marciano Belt

Tribal citizen Stan Hiacoomb's Dutra won the coveted Marciano Belt on November 4 in Middleboro. Surrounded by many, loud Wampanoag supporters Stanley was able to succeed.

Shortly after the fight Stan shared a few thoughts on the win and why he decided to step back in the ring. "I want to thank off my family and friends for supporting me. We were Wamp strong," said Stanley. "It took a lot of hard work to win this belt and I did it for everyone that's suffering, sick, poor and oppressed. This is proof that we can beat anything and that everything is possible. Much love."

Stan has been involved in boxing all of his life and is the founder and organizer for Rumble on the Rez a substance abuse and awareness boxing fund raiser. The 10th Annual Rumble on the Rez will be held on December 3 at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. where Stan will be displaying his belt.

Stan's also stayed involved as a promoter of other celebrity and charity tourna-



ments, including promoting the much-hyped fight between Marvin Hagler, Jr (son of Marvelous Marvin Hagler) and Ray Leonard, Jr. (son of Sugar Ray Leonard) scheduled for April 8, 2017.

Tai Chi in January

Starting in January, Tribal Health in partnership with Healthy Living of Cape Cod will be hosting a free 8-week Tai Chi for Healthy Aging workshop. The weekly workshop will be held on Wednesdays and consists of 1 hour of physical activity performed sitting and standing. It is a body/mind practice which will help you relax while you move to increase balance, stamina and flexibility. This workshop is suitable for all fitness levels.

The workshop is led by Gina Battles and is sponsored by Healthy Living Cape Cod. For more info call Gina at (508) 470-1125 or call (508) 957-7620 or email healthylivingcapecod@gmail.com to register. The workshop is free thanks to the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund.

When: 1/4/17-3/1/17 Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm (no class 2/1/17)

Where: Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Government and Community Center
483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee
Ma02649

Two Citizens of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Recognized with National Award

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) is pleased to announce its 2016 class of “Native American 40 Under 40” award recipients. This prestigious award is bestowed upon individuals under the age of 40, nominated by members of their communities, who have demonstrated leadership, initiative, and dedication and made significant contributions in business and their community. Citizens of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Stephanie Sfiridis and Steven Peters are among the 40 under 40 award winners that were honored during the 41st Annual Indian Progress in Business Awards (INPRO) Gala at the Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino in Santa Fe, New Mexico on Wednesday, November 16th. The awards are part of the Reservation Economic Summit New Mexico (RES New Mexico), which is a regional event for the premier economic development gathering in Indian Country. National RES in Las Vegas will celebrate its 31st year this coming March.

“The 40 Under 40 award recipients are a diverse group of young men and women from across Indian Country who have all made invaluable contributions to their communities,” said Derrick Watchman, Chairman of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development. “We are proud to honor this extraordinary group of leaders. I have no doubt our 40 Under 40 winners will help define the future of Native American business.”

Steven is an accomplished marketing and communications professional who is recognized for developing socially-conscious campaigns that are reshaping the general public’s understanding of its shared history with Native Americans. He is currently the Creative Director and Managing Partner of SmokeSignals – the leading Native American marketing agency in Massachusetts. He has worked with



Steven Peters and Stephanie Sfiridis

organizations such as the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA, The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and Plymouth 400. Steven earned a B.A. in Communications from Bridgewater State College.

Stephanie is currently the Law Clerk for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Gaming Authority. She has also served as an Executive Administrative Assistant/Project Associate for the Authority. Stephanie has also held positions with the National MS Society and March of Dimes. She earned her Law degree from Arizona State University this summer, and is a 2010 graduate of Central Connecticut State University.

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. With over 40 years of assisting American Indian Tribes and their enterprises with business and economic development – we have evolved into the largest national Indian specific business organization in the nation. Our motto is: “We Mean Business For Indian Country” as we are actively engaged in helping Tribal Nations and Native business people realize their business goals and are dedicated to putting the whole of Indian Country to work to better the lives of American Indian people- both now... and for generations to come.

Education Department to Host FAFSA Night

Completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) can be a challenging process for college students and parents to navigate. To assist with the process and answer any questions that tribal citizens may have about it, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department will host a FAFSA Night on Tuesday, January 17 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Tribe’s Community and Government Center.

For more information, please contact Education Department Director Nitana

Hicks Greendeer at (508) 477-0208 x149 or at nitana.greendeer@mwtribe.com. The Education Department is committed to providing support programs that nurture the positive social and academic development of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe citizens.

Three Open Seats on the Housing Commission

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe currently has three openings on its Housing Commission that it is looking to fill. The Housing Commission is tasked with policy-level goals, determinations and review to guide the Housing Department. Duties and responsibilities of the Housing Commission include, but are not limited to creating the Indian Housing Plan (IHP), policies, enforcement of housing-related tribal law, department oversight and regulatory compliance. If you are interested in serving as a Housing Commissioner, please send a letter of interest to Francie Dottin, executive administrative assistant to the chairman, at fdottin@mwtribe.com.

The Housing Commissioners meet every third Monday of the month at the government center and on as needed basis. The Commission is appointed and may be re-appointed by Tribal Council with consideration of input from the Housing Executive Director.

Tribe to Launch “NSN.gov” (continued)

Government and around Indian Country. “Obtaining a “NSN.gov” extension is not as simple as going online and purchasing it like you would with a .com,” said Chairman Cromwell. “There are federal safeguards in place to ensure any entity using a “NSN.gov” domain is in fact a Native Sovereign Nation. Having our “NSN.gov” quickly lets others know that our nation works on a government-to-government relationship with the United States.”

To obtain a “NSN.gov” domain, the Tribe had to complete a lengthy registration process with the United States Government. When the switch to the new domain is completed all email addresses and the website URL will switch over to “NSN.gov”. For an extended period of time all of the old .com email address and website URLs will remain active and will forward users to the new “NSN.gov” domain. This will help to ensure all website traffic and emails continue to reach the intended space.

Meet Emerging Leader April Soliz

A few months ago the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Gaming Authority (MWTGA) launched an emerging leaders program to foster and develop the talent needed to manage its resort casino right here in our community. April Soliz is one of the nine talented young professionals chosen as the inaugural class.

April is currently placed at the Simmons Group in Las Vegas where she's focusing on human resources, strategic planning and organizational development.

"It's very exciting to be part of this program," said April. "My family has been on the forefront of Tribal business development in the hospitality sector for over forty years as the original owners of the iconic La Plaza Del Sol in Mashpee. For me, First Light Resort & Casino is an evolution of those early native businesses and I'm so thankful to have the opportunity to bring by experience and education to this economic development initiative. When this opportunity presented itself, it seemed like the perfect fit and a dream come true."

April is a graduate of the UMass Amherst's Hospitality, Tourism Management and Gaming program. At the time this article was being written, April was working with the Simmons Group to open the newest casino on the Las Vegas strip, the Lucky Dragon.

April sees the opportunity to work with world-class casino and gaming strategists like Gentling and Simmons Group as a life-changing event. "I'm helping to open a new casino on the strip. You can't over state just how valuable experience like this is," said April. "I'm looking forward to bringing every-



April Soliz, Emerging Leaders Program

thing that I'm learning back to my tribe and to First Light Resort & Casino."

Participants in the program are expected to put it at least 40 hours of work each week and are encouraged to take initiative in processes that may be new. Once completed it is expected that the program participants will be able to jump in as leaders with industry knowledge to positions directly in this project.

The MWTGA along with Genting Massachusetts and Simmons Group have plans to launch two complimentary programs - the Education Outreach Program and the Professional Edge Program - down the road that will reach different segments of the tribe. The Education Outreach Program will engage tribal youth currently enrolled in college and the Professional Edge Program is geared towards experienced workers.

Election Notice to Enrolled Tribal Members

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 12, 2017, that they are required to complete a Voter Registration form in order to vote at the general election on Sunday, February 12, 2017 (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 Tribal members are allowed to register on or before the Election Day.

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 13, 2017.

The Tribal Election will be held for the seats of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and one Tribal Council Member.

Election Day:
Sunday, February 12, 2017

(Continued on page 8)

Budding Athletes Named to National All Star Team

After excelling on the football field all season, Kyle Hicks Jr. and Aj Govoni were named to the Blackstone Valley National All Star Team - a world-class youth organization that boasts Division 1 level youth tackle football team. Kyle and AJ were chosen out of hundreds of players to join the team and compete alongside the greatest athletes in the country.

Kyle's mother, Rachel Hicks, is so proud of the positive impact this achievement is having on her son. "The team, which focuses on the power of community and teamwork, has already made a significant impact on Kyle's life," said Rachel. "His success is reinforcing the belief that he can be a champion in life, athletics and academics. I'm so proud of him."

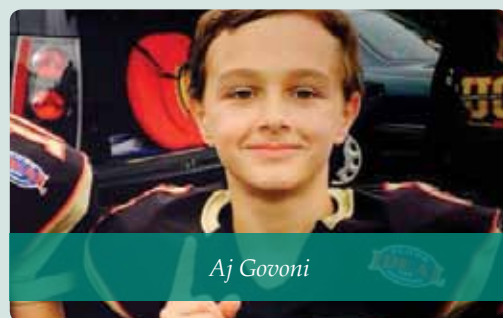


Kyle Hicks, Jr.

Kyle is the son of Rachel Hicks and the late Kyle Hicks Sr. He's the grandson of Bertha Hicks and great-grandson of Warren Hicks, Sr.

Aj's mother, Nichole Hendricks-Govoni, also sees how AJ's accomplishments on the field are impacting his life. "Aj dreams

big and works hard," said Nichole. "Aj does very well academically and just moved up to advanced math in his 7th grade study. He has a passion for football and hopes to continue his dream of continuing his athletic career. These boys are humble with their accomplishments and are true leaders among their peers."



Aj Govoni

Corey Hendricks Brings New Light to First Light Oysters

First Light Oysters, the fledgling shellfish farm owned by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, has its sights set on a bright future under the direction of the new Shellfish Farm Manager Corey Hendricks. Corey, a graduate of Mass Maritime Academy, has a long history of running farms from seed to market and is in the process of reorganizing the Tribe's operation to bring it closer to becoming a self-sustained business.

Originally funded through a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, First Light Oysters was launched in 2009 as an initiative to restore the environment of Popponesset Bay. Under the direction of the Natural Resources Department, the farm has continued to make progress in achieving this goal. However, making the shift from a farm solely focused on the environment to a business enterprise with a dual vision of environment and a bottom line profit has proved challenging.

With the addition of Corey as the new Shellfish Farm Manager the Tribe believes the farm is now positioned to make the transition from a program to a self-sustaining business

enterprise.

"I've seen how a well run shellfish farm can and should operate," said Corey. "A lot of the work done over the past few years focused heavily on the environmental interests and lacked in the critical areas of operation and market. That's going to be a big focus for us over the next year as we turn this into a real business."

Corey, who has only been on the job for a few weeks, has already reconnected with several wholesalers to support the new sales as production prepares to ramp up. In addition, thanks to support from the Natural Resources Commission, the team at First Light Oysters was able to put quahog seed down on an additional 8 acres that was previously sitting unused.

Corey sees the initial changes he's instituted as important benchmarks for future success. "Getting seed down on the extra 8 acres was such an important step for the farm. We'll now have a much better handle on the conditions, water flow and other factors that drive the decisions for how we will manage



Corey Hendricks

future oysters in that area," said Corey. "We'll also get to see how our nets hold up over this winter now that we have some quahog seed down."

Corey has high expectations for the farm and the team. With new management, staffing models, operational changes and the additional 8 acres First Light Oysters sits poised for a bright future.

Open Enrollment for Affordable Care

November 1, 2016 marked the beginning of the fourth Open Enrollment Period for the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace. Even though members of federally recognized Tribes have a special monthly enrollment status, it is important for American Indian and Alaska Native individuals and families to learn about their insurance options. Whether it's purchasing insurance through the Marketplace or qualifying for Medicaid, knowing that you have quality coverage provides peace of mind.

Health Insurance Marketplace Protections for American Indians:

- Special Enrollment Periods (SEPS): Tribal Members can enroll in the health Insurance Marketplace throughout the year, not just during the yearly open enrollment period. Non tribal members applying on the same application as a tribal member can take advantage of the Special Enrollment Period SEP.
- Tribal Members with income at or below 300% of FPL (federal poverty level):
- May be able to enroll in a zero cost sharing plan, which means no copays, deductibles, or coinsurance when receiving care from Indian health care providers.
- Tribal Members with incomes above 300% FPL:

Can enroll in a limited cost sharing plan,

which means no copays, deductibles, or coinsurance when receiving care from Indian Health care providers - Will need a referral from an Indian Health care provider to avoid paying out of pocket costs, if receiving care outside of the Indian Health system

- Tribal Members can enroll in a zero cost sharing or limited cost sharing plan at any metal level, including less expensive bronze plans
- Tribal Members who qualify for cost sharing reductions are not exempt from paying monthly premiums. However, they may qualify for Advanced Premium Tax Credits depending on income. All AI/AN's can apply for an exemption from the tax penalty that others must pay if they don't have health insurance.

MassHealth and CHIP Protections

All AI/AN's have the following Medicaid and CHIP protections:

- Do not have to pay monthly premiums or enrollment fees
- If they receive care from Indian health care provider or through referral to a non-Indian provider, they do not have to pay any cost sharing, such as deductibles or copayments.

Free Creating a Budget Workshop January 11

Managing personal finances is something we could all use a little help with. That's why the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Human Services Department and the Tribal Health Emergency Services have joined up with the Housing Assistance Corporation of Cape Cod to offer Tribal Citizens a free budget workshop on Wednesday, January 11 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center.

Creating a Budget Workshop is a 3-hour course that will walk attendees through the process of creating a budget for yourself and your household. Some of the points that will be covered include what to include in a budget, when to make adjustments, how a budget can benefit your household and how it will assist you in meeting your financial goals. There will also be time to meet with instructors and evaluate your budget and discuss what type of budget works best for your unique situation.

Space is limited and it's recommended that you RSVP early. To RSVP, please contact Cassie Jackson at (508) 477-0208 x142 or cjackson@mwtribe.com.

Tribe Gives Thanks At 7th Annual Native American Thanks Giving

The theme for the 7th annual Native American Thanks Giving Celebration, “We Gather Together,” could not have been a more appropriate way to sum up the event. Tribal citizens and friends from the surrounding communities along with several Quakers, Buddhist monks and a Catholic nun filled the Old Indian Meeting House and shared in the traditions, ceremonies and blessings.

Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Cedric Cromwell echoed the feelings of many in attendance during a portion of the celebration where thoughts of thanks were being shared. “We are still here,” said Chairman Cromwell. “Our people have remained on this land for generations and will continue to thrive and prosper for many more. And as I look at our family and friends that have gath-



ered here today, I can see that our future is going to be bright. We have amazing youth in our tribe that are doing great work to ensure our way of life continues for the next seven generations. That’s something we can all be thankful for.”

The celebration, which was held on Saturday, November 19 opened with a smudging by Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Medicine Man Earl “Soaring Eagle” Cash before moving into the formal program. The program of events included a greeting from Chairman Cromwell, words and prayer from Deacon Wayne Jackson, and a historical talk about the relationship between Quakers and the Wampanoag by Quaker Todd Kelley. The ceremony closed with two annual portions of the program. Vicky (Costa) Wabanako along with her daughter Elizabeth and her mother Natalie Costa led a reciting and signing of the 23rd Psalm (pictured above) and Vice Chairwoman Jessie “little doe” Baird led a prayer of the four directions.

Following the ceremony, the attendees made their way over to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center for potluck style celebration with traditional food, drumming and crafts. This year’s menu included rabbit, turkey and clam and corn chowder. There was also a raw bar

of fresh First Light Oysters provided by Corey Hendricks and clams and mussels thanks to John Mendes. A special thanks to Angela Shwom, Bernadine Pocknett, Kitty Hendricks, Marilyn Hendricks, and Joanne Frye for their time and delicious food contributions. The Committee would also like to extend a thank you to all of the volunteers that helped to serve food and clean up after the event.

Please join us in thanking the Old Indian Meeting House Committee - Chairperson Carol Lopez, Secretary Pauline Peters, Treasurer Anne Foxx, Norman Dias, Anita Peters, Jeanne Peters, Shirlee Oakley, Keeper of the Fire Putnam Peters, Emeritus Ellen Hendricks and Tribal Council Liaison Edwina Johnson-Graham - for hosting this year’s celebration. And thank you for reminding us that we are together, strong and have so much to be thankful for this year.

A Tribe is a family and family members are “there” when we need them. Without volunteers an organization, family, or Tribe cannot exist and prosper.

It was another great day for the Tribe to show the non-tribal public that the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is more than newspaper articles about casinos.



Tribal Child Welfare Jurisdiction

National Indian Child Welfare Association and the Native Nations Institute recently published a study entitled “Tribal Child Welfare Codes as Sovereignty in Action”. We will now examine Mandatory Reporting. To protect children and support families, a child welfare system must have a process for recognizing abuse and neglect. Such a process depends substantially on individuals who come into frequent contact with children and may become aware of child abuse or neglect (or the potential for them) in a child’s home. “Mandatory reporting” rules in state and tribal laws typically identify certain individuals who are required to report known abuse or neglect to appropriate authorities. Usually, mandated reporters are professionals who interact with children and who have the necessary training and knowledge to recognize abuse or neglect. Their failure to report is often penalized.

Of course, any community member may witness or suspect child abuse or neglect. This assignment may reflect the cultural teaching that all tribal members share responsibility for the well-being of a community’s children. A tribal code provision establishing broad responsibility for mandatory reporting can make a strong statement that the tribe will not tolerate abusive or neglectful behavior toward children. However, a smaller penalty may be appropriate for failure to report by those who do not carry professional responsibilities for children’s welfare.

Youth Council Inauguration



Seven years after being founded, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Youth Council held its inaugural Youth Council Inauguration on November 6.



Nashauonk
Mittark™

483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, MA 02649



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

COMMUNITY



Tribe Honors Veterans at Ceremony

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal leaders took center stage at the town of Mashpee's Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11. Tribal leaders took the opportunity to speak during the event and close the ceremony with a traditional honor song.

Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell took the opportunity to speak with the guests about the roll tribal citizens have and continue to make in defense of this country. "Let's never forget to honor our veterans. They are true heroes and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect at all times," said Chairman Cromwell. "Our chief [Vernon "Silent Drum" Lopez] is a veteran of World War II and is an example of the heroes that we have in our community."

Other speakers at the event included tribal elder and Women's Auxiliary President Cherie Peters, VFW representative Steve Koglin, Mashpee Board of Selectman Chairman Andrew Gottlieb and State Representative David Vieira.



Election Notice

(continued)

Election Day:

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Voting Hours:

Enrolled Elders and Disabled Persons:

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Enrolled Elders, Disabled Persons and other Tribal Members:

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location:

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community
& Government Center

483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, MA 02649

Five (5) Tribal Council Seats:

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Tribal Council Member

Registered voters are required to provide a federal, state or Mashpee Tribal government-issued photo identification card to vote.