



# Nashauonk Mittark™



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January 2017

DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY

## Chairman's Column



Greetings Tribal Citizens,

A fresh new year is upon us once again. The New Year is an opportunity for us to pause, reflect on the past year, take stock in our accomplishments and be critical of the areas we need to focus on improving in 2017. For me, 2017 is a fresh new year to continue the work of building a strong, independent and prosperous tribal nation and set positive goals and resolutions that will continue to serve the needs of our tribal citizens and their families.

In this spirit of reflection and constant improvement your Tribal Council approved a joint resolution with our cousins across the water, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, requesting Harvard University fulfill the purpose of the Harvard University Charter of 1650 through a series of actions.

To understand the reason for the resolution and why we are invested in the University, we have to take step back and look at our historic ties with the University. It's important to understand that the education of our people is woven into the long history of Harvard. The Charter of 1650, which continues to govern it, pledges the University to "the education of English and Indian youth." That's a clear and powerful directive that we intend to see honored.

But our involvement with the University doesn't stop there. Wampanoag citizen Caleb Cheeshahteumuck, class of 1665, was the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College. His classmate and fellow Wampanoag Joel Hiacoomes would have graduated with him but was lost in a shipwreck at sea on his way back from Nantucket.

Despite the University's pledge to

(Continued on page 3)

## DOJ and Tribe File Notice of Appeal as Tribe Pursues Revised Record of Decision

**O**n Friday, December 9 the U.S. Department of Justice and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe filed a notice to appeal a federal district court ruling that challenged the federal government's authority to designate tribal land in Mashpee and Taunton as a reservation.

The notices to appeal were filed with the First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston, which will trigger the case to now be moved to the higher court.

On July 28, 2016, a federal district court judge ruled that the U.S. Department of Interior

did not have the authority to take land into trust on behalf of the historic tribe on the basis of what is known as "category 2" under the Indian Reorganization Act. That decision is the subject of the appeal.

"This is a continuation of our fight to remain on the land our ancestors have lived on for thousands of years," Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell said.

The initial ROD issued in September 2015 re-established reservation land for the Mashpee tribe. The ROD was based on what is known as "category 2" - living continuously on an existing reservation - under the IRA. While a federal judge ruled that the Interior Department did not have the authority to hold land in trust on behalf of the tribe under category 2, it could consider revising the ROD and basing it on category 1.

As the appeal moves forward, federal officials will also now consider whether the tribe is eligible to have its land held in trust under category 1, which would establish that the Tribe was "under federal jurisdiction" at the time of the 1934 law.

Meanwhile, on a parallel track, the Bureau of Indian Affairs - which is a division

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*This is a continuation of our fight to remain on the land our ancestors have lived on for thousands of years."*

- Chairman Cromwell

## Tribe to Launch NSN.gov Domain on 1/9/17

On Monday, January 9 the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will launch its new NSN.gov domain, another sign to the rest of the world that the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is a native sovereign nation. The unique domain designation, which is only granted to federally recognized tribes, will impact the Tribe's official website URL and all tribal email addresses.

Tribe's new URL January 9 will be [www.mashpeewampanoagtribe-NSN.gov](http://www.mashpeewampanoagtribe-NSN.gov) and all email address will be the person's first name. last name@mwtribe-NSN.gov.

For instance, the Tribe's Public Relations Manger Trish Keliinui's new email address after the conversion will be trish.keliinui@mwtribe-NSN.gov.

Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Cedric Cromwell sees this as another step in the foundation of the tribal nation. "First off, we're a native sovereign nation and this is just another proof point to that fact," said Chairman Cromwell. "Our status is unique and so should our domain. It's important when communicating with our counterparts in the federal government

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## Events Calendar

### New Events

**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

**February 3 - 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
Ed Fest, MWTCGC

### March 11

21st Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Ball,  
*Resort and Conference Center of Hyannis*

### 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

**Fridays - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**  
CCDF Family Paint Nights, MWTCGC

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

## Date Set for 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Wampanoag Ball

**T**he Wampanoag Ball Committee is pleased to announce that the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Wampanoag Ball will be held on Saturday, March 11 at the Resort and Conference Center of Hyannis. Please mark your calendars for the celebration.

This year's theme is "Solidarity - All Nations Stand as 1." A theme that is appropriate for the struggle for sovereignty, rights and protecting our land that is going on across Indian Country and right here in our own homeland.

Tickets will be available to purchase by February 1, 2017. Tickets purchased in advance will be \$40 for general admission and \$30 for Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Elders. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$50.



We look forward to seeing everyone at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Ball on March 11.

## Save the Date for the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Powwow

The dates for the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow have been set for Saturday, July 1; Sunday, July 2; and Mon-

day, July 3. The annual powwow will once again be held at the Cape Cod Fairgrounds.

## Nakia Rises Up at Haskell Indian Nations University

**N**akia Hendricks, Jr., a 6' 7" freshman at Haskell Indian Nations University, just completed his first semester where he earned a spot on the basketball team as a forward. Nakia is anxious to return from his spring semester after spending some time at home with his family and community during his Christmas break. Nakia is the son of the late Angel Lopes and Nakia Hendricks, Sr., and the grandson of Brad Lopes and the late Debbie Costa and Carlton Hendricks, Sr., and Catherine Hendricks.



## Thank You for Your Support

Tribal elder, artist and the energy behind the Alice May Lopez memorial fundraising efforts Carol Lopez would like to personally thank everyone for the support they gave over the past few months. The Alice May Lopez Memorial Statue Fundraising Committee, which she heads up, held a clambake on October 15 and the Annual Christmas Craft Fair on December 10 raising funds that bring them closer to reaching their goal. Both events were a huge success with the committee raising nearly \$5,000 at the clambake and over \$1,400 at the Christmas Craft Fair.

All funds raised at these events will directly benefit the Alice May Lopez Statue Fund. The committee is committed to raising \$100,000 to create a life-sized bronze statue in memorial of Alice, who passed away unexpectedly at the age of 49 in 2011. Alice was the founder and first director of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Housing Department. "No Wampanoag should be homeless in their homeland..."  
- Alice May Lopez.

## Election Committee Seeking Volunteers

The Election Committee is seeking volunteers and monitors for the upcoming regular election on Sunday, February 12, 2017. If interested, please email Latoya Green at [latoya.green@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:latoya.green@mwtribe-NSN.gov).

## Chairman's Column *(continued)*

foster the education of native youth and the development of the American Indian Program in 1970, which was reorganized as the Harvard University Native American Program in 1990, the school's outreach efforts have left much room for improvement.

Three hundred and forty seven years after Cheeshahteumuck, Tiffany Smalley class of 2011 became the second Wampanoag to receive her undergraduate degree from Harvard College. I'm sure good work has taken place at Harvard since its original founding as an Indian College but Native Americans only comprise 1 percent of the Class of 2019; there's no question - much work remains.

Our youth deserve a quality education and this resolution confirms our intent to work with Harvard to fulfill its Charter of 1650. It's so important that universities like Harvard start seeking out the bright stars of Indian Country and recruiting these worthy youth. It starts with Harvard understanding that Natives are a vital segment of its community. This resolution affirms our commitment to Harvard and seeing them strive to do better in 2017.

We are also looking at issues a little more close to home in the New Year. One of the items at the top of our list is the resolution of the litigation surrounding our land. We are confident that we will be celebrating the completion of this legal battle in 2017, and moving forward with a world-class destination resort casino in Taunton. First Light Resort and Casino is going to be a powerful economic engine for our economy and a bridge to building a diverse portfolio of corporations that will compete on a national stage. We will be a major player in the economic arena this year.

I'm so thankful to have been given the opportunity to serve my people during these historic times. Every time I walk into our Community and Government Center I am filled with an immense sense of pride in our people, in the services we provide and seeing hope in the eyes of our tribal citizens. We have accomplished so much over the past few years. I believe in our people and our future. Let's make 2017 another great year for Wampanoag Nation.

Kutâputunumuw,  
Cedric Cromwell  
Qaqeemashq (Running Bear)

## Morgan (The Z.Y.G.) Peters II - An Amazing Tribal Talent

**T**he talents of one tribal youth, Morgan (The Z.Y.G.) Peters II, moved his 8th grade teacher to write and post the following essay as a spotlight on the Mashpee Public School website. Below is a copy of the article.

Imagine being a teacher reading some "What I Did For My Summer Vacation" essays and amid the stories of camping, fishing and trips westward, you come upon one that describes going on tour and headlining jazz festivals as a jazz fusion drummer. As fanciful as it might sound, if the essay was from Morgan James Peters, II (or Zyg or The Z.Y.G. as he's known to a growing number of fans), currently an 8th grader at Mashpee Middle School, it would accurately describe how he spent the summers of 2015 and 2016. In late 2014, Zyg started featuring at community performances of The GroovaLottos, a regional band that Zyg's father and cousin are members of.

Starting with a toy drum kit at age 4, and the collection of hand drums that his father had around the house, Zyg showed enough proficiency that his hand drumming is featured on two of his father's multi-award-winning jazz and house music albums. Along with being a 5th generation musician, Zyg credits the contributions of Mashpee Public School educators Ms Sherman and Ms Hill at the Quashnet School and Mr Troyanos at the Mashpee Middle School to his development. Zyg also studies privately with GroovaLottos drummer Eddie Ray Johnson.

In June of 2015, after being heard at a family gathering, Zyg was invited to headline at the Onset Jazz Festival 'Stars of Tomorrow' showcase. From there he was heard by James Braxton, of Boss Ten Entertainment and producer of the Boston Jazz Fest; who invited Zyg to be a headlining performer, along with Pat Braxton, Bradley Roche and The GroovaLottos. His performance received a standing ovation from festival goers. He also became a featured performer at the Cultural Survival Festival Tour throughout southern New England. Zyg is also featured in the music video



and CD cover to "Do You Mind...?" the debut single by The GroovaLottos that has been in the top ten of the Americana/WI Blues Charts for over 34 weeks. (<http://tinyurl.com/tg-dym>)

In 2016 he performed in New York City with avante-garde jazz Saxophonist Jay Rodriguez (formerly of Prince's band and occasionally seen on Jimmy Fallon with The Roots), who noted that Zyg could keep quite a pocket. This summer, Zyg returned as a headliner at The Boston Jazz Fest and has co-founded a hip-hop jazz group called JBZ. When The GroovaLottos were invited to the 2017 Gathering Of Nations Powwow in Albuquerque, NM (100,000 visitors, making it the largest powwow in North America), Zyg was specifically requested as part of the act.

At present, he and another young man, under the leadership of Jahiem Frye have formed a hip-hop group that performed in Boston on December 17 for a major benefit concert. Zyg's future plans include college, playing percussion professionally, and producing records and films. We are very proud of Morgan. He is another reason why "It's GREAT to be in MASHPEE."

## Elders Judiciary Committee Seeking Elders to Join Committee

The Elders Judiciary Committee is looking for letters of interest from Elders who would be interested in serving on the Elders Judiciary Committee. We currently have one open position. Please send all letters of interest to: The Elders Judiciary Commit-

tee, 483 Great Neck Road, S., Mashpee MA 02649.

## Grant Awarded to Assess Energy Program

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Community Development Corporation (MWDCDC) was recently notified that it was awarded over \$125,000 from the Division of Energy and Mineral Development to conduct a preliminary study of the development of a tribal utility authority. The MWDCDC is currently in the process of identifying a project manager and plans to kick off the yearlong project in February.

Danielle Hill, former senior planner for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and current Vice President of the MWDCDC, who worked with Facilities Director Michael Maxim to submit the grant proposal, sees this as the first step down a long road to energy independence. "We realized early on that our economic prosperity will be impacted by the

availability of affordable and reliable energy," said Danielle. "However, realizing that goal requires proper research and planning. There's a long-range goal to provide quality energy services through a tribally owned and operated municipal power company. This is our first step toward that goal."

To accomplish this, the MWDCDC along with the Tribe's Facilities Department must conduct a comprehensive feasibility study with a process and development of a corresponding road map to guide the steps following the study. The feasibility study was identified as the most expedient way to assess the viability of such a program and to ensure the success of potential future energy development on tribal lands.

## RFP for Temporary Contractor: Grant Project Manager

The Mashpee Wampanoag Community Development Corporation (MWDCDC) is seeking a temporary contractor to act as a project manager for a Tribal Utility Grant Feasibility Study. The contracted, temporary position is estimated to take 565 hours over the period of 12 months with a rate of \$35 per hour. The project manager will be working closely with the MWDCDC and Facilities Department along with Baker Tilly, a firm with over 80 years with experience in renewable energy and utilities, to assess the feasibility of developing a Tribal Utility Authority (TUA).

The TUA can be a vehicle for finance, business and future development. The project will also explore the potential availability of renewable energy sources that are available to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and its citizens and the benefit of future renewable energy projects.

The project manager will work closely with all parties to insure the feasibility study remains on track, that lines of communication between all parties remain open and efficient and that each study element is completed in a thorough manner. The study elements include, but are not limited to assessing the current state of utility services, developing a vision for the TUA, and defining a road map for utility delivery.

Requirements for this temporary, contacted position include a bachelor's degree, prior project management experience and experience managing a remote team. Additionally, prior experience with renewable energy, tribal economic development and grant management is required.

### Details

**Project Manager funded:** \$19,775

**Contract Period:** February 2017 to December 2017

**Contracted Hours:** Estimated at 565 hours

**Contracted Rate:** \$35 per hour

**Contracted Pay Schedule:** bi weekly invoices

For more information, please send the MWDCDC an email at [mwtcdc@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:mwtcdc@mwtribe-NSN.gov).

Interested applicants must submit a resume and letter of interest to the MWDCDC at [mwtcdc@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:mwtcdc@mwtribe-NSN.gov) by Friday, January 20.

## Open Seat on CDC Board of Directors

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community Development Corporation (CDC) is currently seeking a qualified tribal citizen to join the CDC Board of Directors. The CDC was organized earlier this year to engage in activities that will promote the social welfare, economic security and community development of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and its enrolled citizens that will en-

able the Tribe to be self-sufficient and to provide economic support for its tribal citizens. If you are interested in serving as a CDC Board of Director, please send a letter of interest along with your resume/CV to Francie Dottin, executive administrative assistant to the chairman, at [francie.dottin@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:francie.dottin@mwtribe-NSN.gov) and carbon copy [mwtcdc@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:mwtcdc@mwtribe-NSN.gov) by February 1.

## Rumble on the Rez



Event organizer Stan Dutra with Councilman and event liaison Charles "Bobby" Foster



Tribal Citizen Rob DaGaetano participating in the boxing exhibition on December 3

## Opening on 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, send a letter of interest to Francie Dottin, executive administrative assistant to the chairman, at [francie.dottin@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:francie.dottin@mwtribe-NSN.gov).

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.

## Meet Emerging Leader Melissa Hill

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. Melissa Hill is one of the nine talented young professionals chosen as the inaugural class.

Melissa Hill is currently working as the MWTGA Project Associate with a focus on marketing and public relations.

"This program is an amazing opportunity. I'm so thankful that I was chosen," said Melissa. "I see doors and opportunities opening up for me that I never thought were possible. It's a very hands on program and that's allowing me to connect with people leading in my field and draw from their experience. It's a beautiful thing."

Melissa received her bachelor's degree in journalism from Northeastern University and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Northeastern University. Melissa, who's had the opportunity to work in several positions within the Tribe's operations before moving over to the MWTGA, was able to get her feet wet in the marketing and public relations field as a member of the Tribe's Communications Team. In her current role as MWTGA Project Associate she's been able to take the foundation in marketing she gained from the Communications Team and bring it over to her new position.

Being able to work on a project from the initial planning and development to the launch of the casino brand is something that Melissa sees as a huge boost for her career. "I'm always excited when we can get into projects surrounding the brand development, event management and marketing," said Melissa.



Melissa Hill, Emerging Leaders Program

"There's so much going on in the background with any new project and I'm just soaking up as much as possible. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved with a wide range of projects in my field. This program has encouraged me to be a truly impactful leader."

Participants in the program are expected to put in 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

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## Chairman Featured in *Indian Country Today* by Tanya H. Lee

The federal government debated for more than three decades whether to acknowledge an American Indian tribe that had lived in what is now southeastern Massachusetts for 12,000 years, that had ensured the survival of the first European colonists in the area and whose claim to lands was recognized as legitimate by the Plimoth Bay Colony 400 years ago.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe did finally receive federal recognition in 2007. Another eight years went by before the Department of the Interior announced its decision to take 320 acres of land into trust for the tribe for housing and economic development. The tribe broke ground on its proposed billion-dollar First Light Resort and Casino project in

Taunton, Massachusetts, in April.

Days later attorneys for a group of plaintiffs, funded by a developer with plans to build a casino in a nearby town, were in court trying to persuade Federal District Court Judge William Young to stop the tribe's project. They succeeded. In August Judge Young found that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (the defendant in the case) did not have the authority to take the land into trust under the category 2 definition (descendants of a recognized Indian tribe) of "Indian" that it had used.

Young expanded on his ruling in October, when he said the department would be within its rights to go back and look at whether it could take the land into trust for the

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe under the category 1 (under federal jurisdiction in 1934) definition of "Indian." A month earlier, the judge had granted the tribe's request to intervene in the lawsuit, so it can participate directly as the case goes forward.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Chairman Cedric Cromwell sat down with ICTMN last week to talk about the lawsuit, its historical context, and what the future may hold. What is the status of the court case at this point?

Land into trust is so important for us - having our sovereign land for self-determination and for building infrastructure for our people. In 1988 the Indian Gaming Regulatory

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## Job Opportunity at the Tribe

**N**atural Resources Department Field Assistant - The Natural Resources Department (NRD) Field Assistant is a full time position with an hourly wage of \$21.31 plus benefits. This person serves as an assistant to the staff of the NRD and will be under the direct supervision of the Director of NRD and/or the Assistant Director of NRD.

Preference is given to qualified Native American candidates in accordance with the Indian Preference Act of 1934 (Title 25, U.S.C., Section 472) and the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO). A full posi-

tion description of any of the jobs listed above may be obtained by visiting the tribal website at [www.mashpeewampanoagtribe-NSN.gov](http://www.mashpeewampanoagtribe-NSN.gov).



## A Comparison Between Courts, Mediation and Peacemaking

Below is a summary of Peacemaking Circles: From Crime to Community by Kay Pranis, Barry Stuart, and Mark Wedge (2003). This portion of the article identifies the Peacemaker as the Circle Keeper and how they prepare the circle for the process:

Being a Peacemaker doesn't mean taking charge or running the show. The Peacemaker is the caretaker and facilitator for the Circle. A Peacemaker should be humble, supportive, and strive to maintain a balanced dialogue. A Peacemaker can best serve the Circle by respecting the power of people and of the Circle to face whatever is in front of them. In this way, the best Peacemakers are nearly invisible. They honor the Circle process by:

Preparing themselves to keep check of their inner thoughts and outward behaviors and compare them to their core values to keep them in alignment. To prepare others for the Circle they spend the Weeks before the gathering:

- helping to identify who needs to be in the Circle;
- explaining to participants how Peacemaking works;
- finding out the issues, concerns, and needs of the Circle;
- discussing guidelines and asking participants what guidelines will make the Circle safe for them;
- explaining the roles of the Peacemaker;
- building relationships with participants;
- determining if any preliminary Circles are needed; and
- helping decide when it is right to proceed with a full Circle

The next portion of this article provides insight into how the Peacemakers manage the Circle and keep it balanced.

Before a Circle gathering the Peacemakers provide information about the issues or ask the holder of information to share it. To set the tone, Peacemakers answer questions about the process and arrange help for others to prepare. The Peacemakers create a warm and welcoming environment to prepare everyone else to maintain it. Peacemakers use non-intrusive and controlling methods to facilitate Circle dialogue. They can hold the talking stick and open the floor for free discussion or pass the talking stick with the intent of having participants answer a specific question. Even something as simple as calling for breaks to allow emotions to settle and process, or for people to have smaller discussions help facilitate dialogue. Peacemakers gather interests and perspectives before the circle begins. Then, during the Circle they actively reflect and assess whether or not all the interests are being represented in balance. Circles may often have explosive and emotionally taxing moments, Peacemakers can model appropriate behavior and provide gentle reminders to keep the Circle values and guidelines present in everyone's minds. Regulating the pace of the Circle is a difficult and delicate matter that involves keeping everyone engaged. Peacemakers greet new participants and help integrate them into the Circle. They introduce them to others and others to them. Peacemakers maintain focus on the issues by posing questions or themes for a talking stick round and providing summaries. It is important to remember that Peacemakers are participants, too. Peacemakers should not strive to maintain a detached and objective observer role because that is contrary to the principles of inclusiveness, equality, and sharing.

## Ed Fest on Feb. 3

Come and cure your winter blues at the first annual Ed Fest on Friday, February 3 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center Gymnasium. This fun, educational and informative event is being hosted by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Education Department.

This event is a great opportunity to get out of the cold, meet the education department staff and learn about the many services and opportunities the education department has to offer, including college counseling, tutoring, educational advocacy, internship stipends, scholarships, cultural education and much more.

Also, attendees will enjoy food, bounce houses and free raffles. For more information, contact Education Director Nitana Greendeer at (508) 477-0208 x 149 or [nitana.greendeer@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:nitana.greendeer@mwtribe-NSN.gov).

## 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 continue to examine Mandatory Reporting. Providing anonymity to reporters of child abuse or neglect is a crucial. Potential reporters may be afraid of retribution if they report child abuse or neglect. Promising them anonymity not only protects mandated reporters but removes a barrier to reporting. Other steps that can support appropriate reporting of abuse or neglect include clarifying how anonymity will be assured for both reporters and affected families, clarifying where reports should go (for example, to child welfare departments or law enforcement) and clarifying who will or will not have access to report details. The Majority of tribal codes reviewed (70%) contained mandatory reporting provisions.

In general, the mandated reporters in tribal codes are the same reporters found in state codes: child care personnel, school personnel, medical professionals, etc. In addition to designating specified categories of persons who must report child abuse and neglect, a small proportion (11%) of the reviewed child welfare codes with mandatory reporting provisions assign all community members the responsibility of reporting.

## Chairman Interviewed in *Indian Country Today* (continued)



Chairman Cromwell in his office

Act was passed, but prior to that, for thousands of years, we had land.

Gaming's a by-product of being able to have federal trust lands, but what's more important is having land for our tribe, for housing, for education, and all the many needed social services and important developments of growth and for the advancement of our people.

As we look at the litigation, it says the federal government didn't have the authority to take the land into trust. But when you look at the court case, they did not look at the Record of Decision. Clearly, it's under category 2 of the Indian Reorganization Act. The ROD doesn't talk about Carcieri, under federal jurisdiction [which was the basis for the lawsuit].

Nevertheless, the decision has been remanded back to the United States. We're going to resubmit under category 1. We're in the process of doing that now. It's a dual track situation, the process with respect to category 2 and also the land-into-trust decision being remanded back to the department for resubmission under category 1. I will point out that the land is still in trust. It has not been taken out of trust.

What do you anticipate will be the effects in Indian country of a Trump presidency? The president-elect talks about making America great again. I think we are the greatest country, the United States of America, even though there have been historical challenges, and we as Native Americans know those all too well.

His statements around economic development — I've been really keen on those. For example, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act was put in place for tribes to become self-determined, self-sufficient, so you could get off the public rolls of social support. That is a way to help with the deficit, by us creating our own economy, by being able to provide for our own people. And it's not just jobs for the

tribe, it's jobs for our friends, neighbors and community members in southeastern Massachusetts and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

That ties into President-elect Trump's theory about economic development, creating jobs, creating economies, expanding our gross domestic product. Indian country as sovereign nations can create economy, job development, and self-sufficiency through self-determination. That then supports the national economy. What's really paramount for me is Indian policy. Trump is talking about economies, and we can do that. So he's got to hear from us. I'm willing to sit with him and speak about that, to gain his support, to get him to understand our vision because who could better represent us than ourselves?

He has, I've heard, made negative statements about tribes, with which I disagree 100 percent, but I also know this—we have work to do. So I'm looking forward to meeting with him and explaining who we are and what we're doing and why we're doing it and why we need support to continue to move forward.

Who is on the Supreme Court perhaps matters more in Indian country than anywhere else. Could you comment on the future of the court?

I know that President-elect Trump's got a conservative in mind for the Supreme Court. And that conservative knows nothing about federal Indian law. So, unfortunately, when these cases get up to the Supreme Court we have folks that haven't studied us; if they know anything about us it's because they saw a movie with us riding around on horses with long hair, back in the 1800s. We're so much more than that.

So the Supreme Court is going to be a challenge for all of Indian country. We hope that Trump will be able to ensure that the Supreme Court gets the appropriate education on Indian law and the administrative matters that pertain to Indian country, so we can get more of a fair shake. Right now we're not.

You have said you see what is happening here in Mashpee as indicative of what's happening all over Indian country, for example, in North Dakota. Could you talk about that?

Standing Rock is important because it's iconic. The water protectors in North Dakota are saying we're not just protecting water for us but we're protecting it for Mother Earth and all of mankind. It's about stewardship, it's about our culture, it's about our spirituality, it's about life on Mother Earth, for all of mankind.

We had our own Standing Rock situation happen from the first encounters where

we helped the first settlers survive their first harsh winters and then we were given the smallpox blankets.

Here we are today, trying to get aboriginal trust land, and a judge says, no you can't. Years and years later, millions and millions of dollars later, the burden is back on us to continue to prove what is common sense.

It's common sense what they're doing with the Dakota Access Pipeline. When it leaks — what are you going to do [when] it kills all the precious life within that water, the fish, the oxygen, the nutrients, things that we as human beings, not just Native people, survive off of?

So after a while we have to step back and say what is all this policy about? It's not for us and it's not by us. It's for a certain group that has created these laws and rules and regulations. We as human beings need to take a step back and say, where are we going with this? There's enough economy to make this world go round. The problem is that the ignorance and prejudices just mask what the economy, the greed-based economy, is doing.

I believe my job on the earth is to continue the story, continue the message but also break through. With our spirit coming down, with the energy of the Almighty Lord, our Creator right here coming down on us, we've got to move this thing forward. For all Indian people, and for people as a whole.

## Tribe Shines Bright at Christmas Parade



## Mukayuhsak Weekuw: The Children's House Moves to Mashpee

**W**ith support from the Administration for Native Americans and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project's language immersion nest, Mukayuhsak Weekuw, launched September 9<sup>th</sup> with twelve preschool and Kindergarten students. Two Montessori teacher trainees in their practicum phase, two Wôpanâak language apprentices, and additional speakers lead language-based cultural activities and instruction in the Montessori classroom from 8:30 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. daily. Students arrive beginning at 8:20 a.m., and after school care is also available to support working tribal parents until 4:30 or 5 p.m. All WLRP lead teachers are state (EEC or MTEL) or nationally certified (ParaPro) educators, and all classroom staff are credentialed as fluent Wôpanâak language teachers (or are presently in-training as language apprentices). The language nest team also includes a licensed LPN on site daily to provide nursing and nutrition assistance.

Incubated at the Montessori Academy of Cape Cod in North Falmouth since October 2015, Mukayuhsak Weekuw moved to sovereign tribal land on the Mashpee Wampanoag Reservation in late November 2016. With the hardship of the twice daily 30-min-

ute round trip to/from North Falmouth, only ten students are now enrolled in Mukayuhsak Weekuw. Fourteen total slots are available, and interested parents should complete the pre-enrollment form at [www.wlrp.org/sign-up-form.html](http://www.wlrp.org/sign-up-form.html) (Children should be 3 - 4 years of age, as the Kindergarten cohort is full and cannot accept mid-year transfer students at this time).

Parents and guardians must commit to attending bi-weekly Family Language Nights in order to advance their own Wôpanâak language abilities in order to effectively support their children's language growth in the home. Parents also provide twice daily snacks for the classroom on a rotating basis, and pack a daily lunch for their child.

WLRP was founded in 1993 with the objective of re-establishing Wôpanâak language as a principal means of expression for tribal households throughout the Wampanoag Nation. WLRP serves four tribal governments (Mashpee, Aquinnah, Assonet & Herring Pond), and provides free community language based instruction and teacher training for tribal household members throughout the Cape and Islands region in Massachusetts. Visit [wlrp.org](http://wlrp.org) for more information



## Upcoming Language Class and Mukayuhsak Weekuw Parent Events

**Mukayuhsak Weekuw Parent/Teacher Organization Meetings** are held Thursday's from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Language Classroom at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center on the following dates:

- Thursday, January 5
- Thursday, February 2
- Thursday, March 9,
- Thursday, April 13
- Thursday, May 11
- Thursday, June 1

**Mukayuhsak Weekuw Parent Language Nights** are held every Tuesday from 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the language classroom at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center. All Mukayuhsak Weekuw families are encouraged to attend as often as possible. Bring anyone living in a Wampanoag household who has any regular interaction with Mukayuhsak Weekuw students! Help support their language development!  
Instructor: Nitana Hicks Greendeer ([nitana.greendeer@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:nitana.greendeer@mwtribe-NSN.gov))

### Upcoming Language Class Schedule (Class 1)

**Animate Intransitive Workbook Class**  
Tuesday Evenings, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Prerequisites: Completed Beginner Workbook  
Starting: Tuesday, January 3 End Date: Tuesday, March 21  
Instructor: Tia Pocknett [tpocknett@wlrp.org](mailto:tpocknett@wlrp.org)

### (Class 2)

**Beginner Workbook Class**  
Tuesday Evenings, from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Where: Mashpee Language Office  
Pre-Requisites: None  
Starting: Tuesday, January 3 End Date: Tuesday, March 7  
Instructor: Tia Pocknett [tpocknett@wlrp.org](mailto:tpocknett@wlrp.org)

## 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](mailto: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 Community and Government Center  
483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee  
Ma02649



## FLU Shots Available Wednesdays at Tribe

**T**he flu or Influenza is a serious health risk that can lead to hospitalization with life threatening complications. To help natives stay ahead of this year's flu season, the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit-Indian Health Services (IHS) began offering a walk in Flu clinic in December and continuing each Wednesday through January. There will also be special access days on February 10 and February 13.

What does this mean? It means tribal citizens and natives in the service area can walk in to the medical clinic located behind the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center during those days without an appointment and receive a flu shot free of charge. So, please stop by the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit-IHS and get your flu shot as soon as possible. Protect yourself and your family from the flu this year.

### Fast Flu Facts

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu each year.

What are flu symptoms?

People who have the flu often feel

some or all of these signs and symptoms:

- Fever\* or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (very tired)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

Did you know that the flu shot takes up to 2 weeks to become fully effective? Did you also know that flu vaccine decreases hospitalizations by 79% for patients with diabetes and by 52% for patients with chronic lung disease?

For more information about the Flu clinic being held on Wednesdays or to schedule an appointment call the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit - IHS at (508) 477-6967. The health service unit is committed to providing quality, comprehensive healthcare to Native American members and their families in a culturally sensitive manner promoting good health, safe-lifestyles, well being and harmony.

## Winter Tip: Making a Winter Survival Kit

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Preparedness Department (MWT EPREP) recommends that Everyone carries a Winter Survival Kit in their car. In an emergency, it could save your life and the lives of your passengers. MWT EPREP is in the process of creating winter survival kits for tribal members. To make your own kit, here is what you will need:

- A shovel
- Windshield scraper and small broom
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Battery powered radio
- Water
- Snack food including energy bars
- Raisins and mini candy bars
- Matches and small candles
- Extra hats, socks and mittens
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- Blankets or sleeping bag
- Tow chain or rope
- Road salt or sand for traction
- Booster cables
- Emergency flares and reflectors
- Fluorescent distress flag and whistle
- Cell phone adapter

In addition to the winter survival kit, here are a few other survival tips:

- Keep your gas tank half full
- Tell someone where you are going.
- If stuck: Tie a florescent flag on your antenna or hang it out the window. At night, keep your dome light on.
- Stay in your vehicle
- Avoid Overexertion: Shoveling snow or pushing your car takes a lot of effort in storm conditions.

Each month throughout the winter the MWT EPREP Department will post a winter preparedness tip in the Mittark. The winter months can be particularly dangerous with deep colds, long nights, hazardous driving and storms that can last for several days. Stay tuned in for more tips next month.

For more information about MWT EPREP and the programs and services provided to tribal citizens, please give the department a call at (508) 477-5800 x15 or x13 or email EPREP Director Nelson Andrews at [nelson.andrews@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:nelson.andrews@mwtribe-NSN.gov).

## Food Pantry at the Tribe

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Food Pantry Christmas Raffle winners Cobi Duarte, Kevin Hicks and Gordon Peters. The Food Pantry is located on the ground floor of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center located at 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee and is open during the following 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



Nancy Martin and Joanne Frye Pulling the Winning Tickets



Cobi Duarte collecting his prize



Gordon Peters collecting his prize



Kevin Hicks collecting his prize

## Tribal Community Emergency Response Team to Serve Elders and Vulnerable Tribal Members in Bristol County

**W**ith the cold vortex settling in over the Northeast, the Emergency Preparedness Department with support from a team of dedicated volunteers including Steven Helme, Russell Helme, New Bedford Office Administrator Imani Frye and Tribal Council Secretary Marie Stone will work toward ensuring that our elders and vulnerable tribal members in New Bedford and the rest of Bristol County have the essential support they need throughout the winter months and other seasons with an all hazards support approach. The Bristol County Tribal Community Emergency Response Team (BCTCERT), which will also be set up to provide support during any emergency, was organized to extend support services that are already available on Cape Cod to the large population of elders and vulnerable tribal members in the Bristol County area.

Tribal Council Secretary Marie Stone sees the Tribal Community Emergency Re-

sponse Team as a natural part of being a tribe. "We have a strong network on the Cape to provide the essential support to our citizens, but it was lacking in areas like New Bedford," said Marie. "Supporting our elder and vulnerable tribal members comes almost second nature to our people. So, when you look at where our elders live and see a gap in critical support, like winter preparedness, you immediately know it needs to be filled. I'm so glad that our Director of Emergency Preparedness [Nelson Andrews Jr] was able to recognize the need and is working toward putting together another Tribal Community Emergency Response Team, specific for the Bristol County tribal community"

Nelson Andrews Jr, emergency preparedness department director, is seeking additional volunteers willing to become trained TCERT members. A 20 hour training will be conducted at the New Bedford office by certified CERT trainer Nelson Andrews Jr. TCERT

volunteers willing to join the team are needed and some of the duties will consist of contacting elders by phone to assess any emergency or other needs during critical weather, incidents and winter storms. Additional support services may be required if an elder or vulnerable tribal member is in need.

If you know an elder or vulnerable tribal member that should be placed on the elder/vulnerable member contact list or if you would like to volunteer to assist in coordinating efforts, please contact Imani Frye at the New Bedford Office at (774) 521-4880. You can also contact the MWT EPREP office through Allyssa Hathaway (508) 477-5800 x13 or at [allyssa.hathaway@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:allyssa.hathaway@mwtribe-NSN.gov) or Nelson Andrews Jr at (508) 477-5800 x15 or at [nelson.andrews@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:nelson.andrews@mwtribe-NSN.gov). Please consider joining this volunteer based team and ensuring our most vulnerable population are equipped with the necessary health and safety measures.

### 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 by contacting Cassie Jackson at (508) 477-0208 x142 or [cassie.jackson@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:cassie.jackson@mwtribe-NSN.gov).



## Tribe to Launch NSN.gov Domain *(continued)*

and with our neighbors that they understand that they are speaking with a sovereign nation.”

The NSN designation, which stands for Native Sovereign Nation, was first launched in 2002 under the Bush administration to further illustrate the unique relationship held between a federally recognized tribe, the federal and state government and the community at large.

As a Native Sovereign Nation, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Furthermore, the Tribal Nation possesses inherent rights of self-government to oversee, protect and serve its land and citizens. This status ensures the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Nation is protected and any decisions with regard to the Tribe’s property and citizens are made with the Tribe’s consent.

Trish Keliinui, who has been working closely with the Tribe’s IT providers to facilitate the move, realizes that any change can create some disruptions but is working hard to minimize those instances. “Our main priority with the conversion is to ensure all email and website traffic continues to flow normally, and we’ve put safeguards in place to ensure that happens,” said Trish. “The biggest thing we’re going to do is retain our existing website domain and all email addresses and re-route them to the NSN.gov domain for a period of time after the launch to ensure email and website traffic will continue to flow without any disruptions,” said Trish.

While the switch should be seamless to the outside community on January 9, Trish and her IT providers will be working over the weekend leading up to the launch date making all the necessary changes on the back end.

## Do You Have News for the Mittark?

Do you have Tribal news to share? All Tribal Members are encouraged to submit news for the Mittark. Please contact Trish Keliinui at [trish.keliinui@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:trish.keliinui@mwtribe-NSN.gov). The deadline for submissions is the second Friday of the month.

## UMASS Amherst Looking for Researcher in Residence for Two-Week Program

The Community Program in Native American Indian Studies (CPNAIS) at UMASS Amherst is reaching out to local tribes in search of a Native American Community Researcher to join them for a two-week, paid residency.

This two-week, paid, researcher in residency program at UMASS Amherst is open to Native American and First Nations people from the North East, including areas of the USA and Canada.

The Community Researcher will use the two-week residency fellowship to conduct research that benefits their own or other Native American communities. The Community Researcher will present two lectures on their research to UMASS students/class regarding

their research and or community and cultural practices.

Housing is provided at a hotel on or very close to the campus. In addition, the community researcher is provided with a meal card and an honorarium of \$1,500. The deadline for applications is February 15, 2016. A CPNAIS faculty committee will review applications and choose the recipient, and then notify them by February 28.

For more information on the program or to apply, please email a statement of research interest with a brief background of your educational background and community links to the CPNAIS Program Director Dr. Paulette Steeves (Cree-Metis) at [psteeves@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:psteeves@anthro.umass.edu).

## Free Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors from the Emergency Preparedness Department

The Emergency Preparedness Department has teamed up with the American Red Cross for a new program that is delivering and installing new, free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to tribal households in Barnstable, Plymouth and Bristol counties that need them. If you are in need of new smoke and carbon monoxide detector, please contact Emergency Preparedness Department Director Nelson Andrews at (508) 477-5800 x 15 or at [nelson.andrews@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:nelson.andrews@mwtribe-NSN.gov) or contact Allyssa Hathaway at (508)

477-5800 x13 or at [allyssa.hathaway@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:allyssa.hathaway@mwtribe-NSN.gov).

It’s so important that you update and maintain properly functioning detectors in your home and that they are placed in the proper places. Did you know that cooking is one of the leading causes of home fires? If a fire breaks out in your home you may only have two minutes to escape and your detector could save your life. Please make sure you have an escape plan.

## Title VI Nutrition Program Grant Submitted

Our Grant Application has been submitted for continuation of the 3-year “Title VI Nutrition and Supportive Program” funding for 2017-2020. We will learn if our application is approved by early spring of 2017.

Currently, the program is offers meals twice a week, every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center. The program also offers a traditional Wopanaak language class for our Elders that takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., prior to the lunch hour.

Elders’ are free to attend both the language class and the luncheon, or one and not

the other depending on each Elder’s desire.

Transportation plan is available for elders to be picked up at a convenient area. Please call Donald Peters, MWT Nutrition Program Director at (508) 477-0208 Ext 117 or MWT Transportation Coordinator, Ann Marie Askew (508) 477-5800 Ext 11 for pick up and drop off arrangements. Based on the request load, we may be limited to the number of pick up stop.

We welcome all Tribal Elders to please come and join us for great food, excellent conversation, learning and laughter.

~ Donald Peters, MWT Nutritionist Program Director

# COMMUNITY



## Notice of Appeal Filed *(continued from front page)*

of the Interior Department – sent a letter to Mashpee tribal leaders this week saying it was prepared to consider a revision of its initial Record-Of-Decision (ROD) based on the fact that the tribe was “under federal jurisdiction” in 1934 when the IRA became law. The Interior Department’s authority to take land into trust on behalf of federally recognized tribes can only be done under one of three categories written into the IRA.

The BIA letter to the tribe lays out the timeline on how the agency will proceed with possibly revising its initial ROD so the Mashpee tribe can maintain its reservation land made up of approximately 170 acres of land in Mashpee and 151 acres of land in Taunton.

The letter sent to tribal leaders outlined the administrative process for considering a revision of the initial ROD, setting a Jan. 7, 2017 deadline for the submission of any additional evidence from the Tribe that shows the Mashpee tribe qualifies as being “under federal jurisdiction” as defined by the 1934 law.

The plaintiffs will have 30 days after

Jan. 7 to respond and the Tribe will have another 15 days to respond to any challenges the plaintiffs may submit. By the end of February, “once the department has received all of the submissions, it will review the materials, as well as any additional materials it determines necessary for its analysis, and will prepare a decision on whether the Tribe was under federal jurisdiction in 1934, and thus eligible to have land taken into trust for it,” the Interior Department letter states.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell said he was confident the Tribe’s homeland will be preserved by the federal government.

“The evidence that our Tribe was under federal jurisdiction in 1934 is compelling. I have no doubt that once all the evidence is reviewed, the Interior Department will issue a revised Record-Of-Decision,” Chairman Cromwell said. “Our land supports our culture, our government, indeed, our very lives. We will push hard on both the appeal and further consideration by the Department of Interior. We intend to succeed at both.”

## 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.*