



Nashauonk Mittark™



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November 2016

DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY

Chairman's Column



Greetings Tribal Citizens,

Let's not forget that we have our land, the land of the Mashpee Wampanoag Nation, because our ancestors stayed true to their values and persevered down a very long road to federal recognition. Without question that road to recognition was not always well lit and was filled with distractions along the way begging us to stray from our goal, but thankfully our Tribe never wavered and continued along our path. We're in a stronger place today because our people stayed the course on our path to federal recognition and land in trust. We have our sovereign rights as Natives and are here to protect this land for the next seven generations...let's never forget this.

Let's also find hope in the fact that we now can see the light at the end of the most recent legal battle over our land in trust. Last month Federal District Court Judge William Young provided a ruling that clarified his position on our tribal land status. Essentially what his ruling provided our Tribe and the United States with a clear path on how we should proceed.

Judge Young made it clear that the Department of Interior is now free and fully able to consider whether the Tribe meets the criteria for taking land in trust under the first part of the statute that gives the United States authority to take land into trust for Indian tribes.

In short this ruling, along with the previous ruling by Judge Young to give our Tribe a voice in the legal process, has provided us with the information we needed to move forward in a positive way. Going forward we can appeal Judge Young's original decision that caused this setback and we intend to file

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Judge Clarifies Decision: Tribe to Seek Revised Record-Of-Decision on Land

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal leaders are applauding Federal District Court Judge William Young's decision on October 13 that clarified his initial ruling on the historic Tribe's land status and provides a legal path forward.

"It is no violation of the Court's order should the agency wish to analyze the Mashpees' eligibility under the first definition of 'Indian,'" Judge Young's ruling reads in part.

When the Interior Department issued its' Record-of-Decision to authorize approximately 170 acres of land in Mashpee and 151 acres of land in Taunton as the Tribe's initial reservation, the Interior Department used the second of three categories to make its determi-

nation. It was that determination, under Category 2, that has been challenged in court by a group of anti-Native American East Taunton residents.

What today's ruling means is: while Judge Young technically denied the United States' motion for reconsideration, in doing so he gave the United States the most important thing it asked for in seeking clarification of his initial ruling, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell explained.

Judge Young has now made clear that the Department of Interior is now free and fully able to consider whether the Tribe meets the criteria for re-establishing reserva-

(Continued on page 4)



Tribe Awarded Over \$2.5 Million in Grants

Over \$2.5 million in grants were awarded to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to support everything from operations to self-governance and energy planning to education. The funding, which was awarded to the Tribe between September and October will provide a huge boost to the services it provides to its citizens and provide potential economic development opportunities down the road.

Tribal Administrator Leslie Jonas is

excited about the opportunities this funding will unlock. "I can not express how proud I am of our team for bringing in over \$2.5 million dollars in new grants in just a few, short weeks," said Leslie. "Our amazing consultant Judi Urquhart - who was instrumental in securing over \$2 million in grants - and our Planning and Development Department have been working hard in the background on these grants for months and it's obviously paying off. This is a very exciting time for

(Continued on page 7)

Events Calendar

New Events

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

November 19 - 11:00 a.m.
Native American Thanks Giving, *Old Indian Meeting House*

November 19 - 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.
Evening Out for MaDarrius, *Quashnet Valley Country Club*

November 26 - 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Annual Fall Social, MWTCGC

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

Weekly Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tickets Available for Youth Council Raffle



Pendleton blanket that is being raffled off by the Youth Council.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Council is selling raffle tickets now through Sunday, December 11 to benefit the Youth Council and the many programs, events and trips they host through out the year. Tickets are \$2.00 each or you may purchase a book of six tickets for \$10.00. Tickets are available for purchase at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center front desk or at the General Membership Meetings.

Raffle prizes include a grand prize Pendleton Blanket valued at \$139, a second prize \$25 gift card to Walmart and a third prize \$15 gift card to Walmart. The winners will be drawn at Sunday, December 11 at 4:00 p.m. at the monthly general membership meeting. Please consider purchasing a book of raffle tickets and supporting our youth.

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.

Do You Have News You Want to Share in the Mittark?

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

Juliette Carly Hicks Greendeer



Nitana and Cameron Greendeer along with Wesley and Adeline, welcomed Juliette Carly Hicks Greendeer on June 22, 2016.

Chairman's Column *(continued)*

a formal request with the Interior Department to revise and update our Land-in-Trust application.

This entire legal issue has been an unfortunate setback caused by a very small group of East Taunton residents. Just keep in mind that we've been going down this road for generations and this is nothing more than a temporary setback. Our foundation that's been laid by our ancestors is strong and built on the wisdom and fortitude of our people.

On a similar note, we're very excited to announce that we officially launched our First Light Resort & Casino Emerging Leaders Program last month. These young adults that recently graduated from college are currently completing a 6-month training program at various locations across the world learning first hand the skills needed to run a successful resort and casino. As we move forward, we'll be looking to roll out additional programs to reach younger and older tribal citizens with a variety of skills and provide them with training that will allow them to transfer their skills to management level positions within our resort casino. It's so important that we find ways to continue growing and strengthening our most valuable asset...our people.

We've also got several big events

coming up that you should save the date for. There's the Veteran's Powwow at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum that's right around the corner on November 5. We also have events a little closer to home with the annual Thanks Giving Celebration on Saturday, November 19 at the Old Indian Meeting House with a dinner to follow at the Government and Community Center. Later that evening Councilwoman Winnie Johnson-Graham will be hosting a fundraiser for Marcy Hendricks and her children. Marcy and her family have taken on more than their fair share of challenges and could use all of our help. We've also got our annual fall social on Saturday, November 26 at our Community and Government Center.

I'd like to close out this month's column with a quick note about our Tribal Youth and the great work they are doing in our community and around Indian Country. Let's start with some news about a young Wampanoag leader that recently received a national award for his commitment to his people. Brian Weeden was awarded the National Congress of American Indians 2016 Youth Leadership Award. Brian could not be a more deserving recipient of this award.

I'd also like to recognize the great work taking place at our Youth Council

table. Last month they held their annual elections where they elected Victoria Fermino to Chair, Autumn Jackson as Vice Chair, Abigail Peters and Alyssa Harris as Secretaries, Ciara Jackson as Treasurer, Iyano Fermino as the Male Representative and Chenoa Peters as the Female Representative. Please join me in congratulating our youth on another successful election. Please consider supporting the council with the purchase of a raffle ticket. They're raffling off a beautiful Pendleton along with other prizes. I'm looking forward to seeing what they accomplish over the coming year.

We've accomplished a lot over the past month and I've set an aggressive agenda of items to complete in November. It's all very doable and I'm confident that our tribal citizens, tribal council and dedicated team of operations staff are ready to meet our needs and will keep our Tribe on the path moving forward.

Don't forget to vote in the November 8 Presidential election. Every Vote Counts - Tribal Votes Make the Difference.

Kutâputunumuw,
Cedric Cromwell
Qaqemashq (Running Bear)

William D. Holmes, 53

William D. Holmes, 53, of Hyannis, passed away on Oct. 8, 2016, at Cape Cod Hospital, after battling a long illness. He was born to the late Richard and Pauline (Potter) Holmes in Boston, MA.

William was a jack-of-all-trades, you would say, but master to none. Some of his recent jobs were working as an Executor Property manager, and also a transporter and set up for antique shows at Hyland Granby Antiques for 13 years; and Mashpee United Church Village for 11 years as a Property Maintenance Manager.

He loved his family and also his heritage and was a tribal Wampanoag member; his name is "Manyhorses." He also enjoyed fishing, camping, riding his motorcycle, going to the beach and gardening. He loved watching T.V., and his favorite shows were the Price Is Right and the Laramie channel with his brother William Carroll (Butch). He was also an avid Steelers fan always cheering them on.



William is survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Theresa (Rose) Holmes, his two sons William D. Holmes, Jr. and Quinn Lawrence Williams; his four daughters, Amethia Denise (Holmes) Joseph, Vaughnay Danielle CW Rose, Stephanie Helen CW Rose-Locke and Theresa Marie CW Rose; his two brothers, Richard Matthew Holmes, Jr. and William Ernest Carroll. His brother Walter Vaughn Jackson predeceased him. He is also survived by his two sisters, Sandra Elaine Graham and Stephanie Louise Holmes; his four grandchildren, Isaac Daniel Holmes, Lucas Matthew Holmes (both William

Jr.'s sons), and Leo Daniel Rose-Spencer (Vaughnay's son) and Baby Boy Locke (Stephanie's son); his two Godsons, Dorian Holmes, Jr., and Devan Holmes; and many nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and nephews; Teddy, Stephen, Brandon DiMaggio. He will be watching over all, as he used to tell them.

Youth Council Elections Held

The Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Council held its officer elections during the Wednesday, October 5 meeting at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. At the meeting tribal youth elected Victoria Fermino as Chairwoman; Autumn Jackson as Vice Chairwoman; Abigail Peters and Alyssa Harris as Co-Secretary; and Ciara Jackson as Treasurer. In addition, Iyano Fermino and Chenoa Peters were elected the male and female representatives for the Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Council. The Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Council meetings are open to all Mashpee Wampanoag youth between the ages of 13 and 20 years old. In order to become a member of the youth council, youth need to attend three consecutive meetings and then be approved by seated Youth Council members.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers and to all of our youth that participated in the process.

Tribe Launches First Light Resort & Casino Emerging Leaders Initiative

Right from the start the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Gaming Authority (MWTGA) saw the value in fostering and developing the talent needed to manage its resort casino right here in our community. The launch of the First Light Resort & Casino Emerging Leaders Program is a big step towards reaching this goal. The new program opened with a total of nine tribal members that are currently training in resort casino establishments all over the world.

Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Cedric Cromwell sees this as an investment that will pay off for many generations to come. "We've spent a lot of time at a variety of resorts and casinos across Indian Country. We've seen how a tribe, like ours, can leverage a new venture to elevate its people and we've also seen how quickly it can go wrong when it's not addressed," said Chairman Cromwell. "We decided from day one

across Indian Country gain the skills needed to run a first-class resort casino."

The inaugural program, which started in August with an intensive two-week training program facilitated by world-class facilitators from the Simmons Group, opened with a cohort of nine tribal members. A third party firm that reviewed and scored all of the applications selected the nine. The first Emerging Leaders include Will Banks, Wamsutta Brown, Cameron Frye, Kayla Gomes, Melissa Hill, Darrin Kelley, Kallie Maxim, Stephanie Sfiridis, and April Soliz.

The 2016 Emerging Leaders are now in the process of completing a 6-month program. Based on their area of interest they have been placed in paid externships across the United States and abroad with some participants as far away as Chile.

Melissa Hill, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Gaming Authority Associate and 2016



2016 Emerging Leaders with MWT Gaming Authority at a gaming conference in Las Vegas

that we were going to tackle this project the right way and do what's best for the long-term success of our people. Programs like this will ensure we always have the talent needed to manage the businesses we develop...both today and for the next seven generations."

The Emerging Leaders Program - a program developed by First Light Resort & Casino Human Resources consulting firm Simmons Group - was specifically launched to advance First Light Resort & Casino's mission to empower new leaders to be passionate about the gaming and hospitality industry. The program seeks to equip qualified candidates with the tools and opportunities necessary to rise to and excel in senior gaming and hospitality management roles on a fast-track basis.

"We approached the Simmons Group with a problem we needed a solution for. What they came back with was a program that's given a great group of young adults a world of opportunity," said Kevin Jones President of Genting Massachusetts who worked closely with Simmons Group to implement the program. "Programs like this have a proven track record of helping talented, young adults

Emerging Leader, is looking forward to fast tracking her career. "Without question this is one of the most exciting career opportunities that I've come across," said Melissa who's also in the process of completing her graduate degree. "It's one thing to get the fundamentals in class, but something completely different when you are learning to actually apply those skills in an industry like hospitality. I'm so thankful to have been given this opportunity."

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.

Legal Path Clarified *(continued)*

tion land under the first part of the statute which gives the United States authority to take land into trust for Indian tribes under "federal jurisdiction" in 1934. That is something, Cromwell said, the Tribe is confident its history will demonstrate.

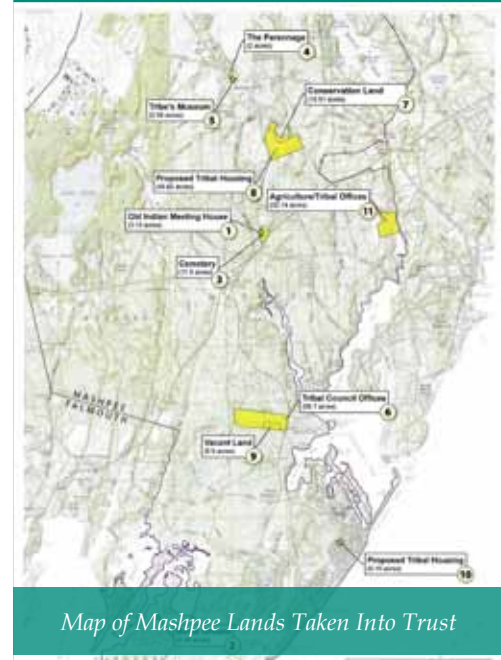
"The bottom line: The United States has a full opportunity here to further address our request to have our land held in trust, and we expect any setback caused by the Court's initial decision will be temporary," Cromwell said.

In fact, Cromwell added: "we intend to make a formal request with the Interior Department for a revision and update of our Land-in-Trust application under Category 1," Cromwell said.

Cromwell said tribal leaders are wholly focused on defending their land and underscored the injustice the Tribe has been made to endure.

"It's unfortunate that a small group of residents have tried to bog us down in legal technicalities and attempt to thwart justice. We've been on our land for thousands of years and all we seek is the right to exist here as a sovereign people. It was promised to us soon after the first Pilgrims arrived and it's a promise we have faith will ultimately prevail in the courts," Cromwell said.

Today's ruling comes on the heels of a ruling last month in which Judge Young allowed the Mashpee Tribe to become party to the case and play a more direct role in defending the status of their ancestral homelands.



Map of Mashpee Lands Taken Into Trust



Annual Ball Celebrates 20 Years

T rue to this year's theme, the 20th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Ball on October 1 was a true celebration of our sovereignty with attendees enjoying a wonderful evening of traditions, music, dancing, awards and dinner.

In similar fashion to the past 19 events, the year's Wampanoag Ball opened up with a traditional ceremony of prayer and drumming before going into the awards presentation. This year's award recipients included Mark C. Tilden who was presented with the Lewis Gurwitz Spirit Award for his unselfish

young ones to have a safe and secure area on our tribal land to enjoy being young.

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

The annual event could not be put on without the continued support of dedicated sponsors. This year's sponsors included Platinum Table Sponsors Genting, Faegre Baker Daniels, RGB Architects, Dimeo Construction



devotion and friendship to the Tribe. Other award recipients included Paula D. Peters who received the Wampanoag Business and Professional Leadership Award, June Tiexeira who received the Alice May Lopez Award for Advocacy and Volunteerism and Brian Moskwetah Weeden our Osamequen Award recipient. Congratulations to all of the award recipients and all of our tribal citizens and friends that have received awards at a past Ball.

In addition to being a celebration, the annual Ball provides needed funds to a worthy program or service. With great consideration, the Ball Committee decided that this year's proceeds will benefit the construction of a playground. The intent of dedicating funds toward a Tribal playground is for our

Company; Gold Table Sponsors Dino's Pizza & Subs, Todd & Weld LLP; and support from Rebekah Salguero & Family, Puritan Clothing of Cape Cod, Roche Bros., Theresa Holmes & Family, Tilden & Toelupe, Spanky's Clam Shack & Seaside Saloon, Hyline Cruises and Cape Air.

Let's also take a moment to thank this year's Wampanoag Ball Committee. This dedicated group of tribal citizens persevered against a storm of controversy, date and location changes and overwhelming odds to host a classic evening appropriate for a 20th Anniversary Celebration. Thank you for all that you do and looking forward to next year's ball scheduled for March 11, 2017 at the Resort & Conference Center of Hyannis.

3rd Annual Alice Lopez Christmas Craft Fair



The Alice May Lopez Memorial Statue Fundraising Committee will be hosting the 3rd Annual Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday, December 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. The annual event draws a wide range of local vendors for holiday shoppers to browse and find those special gifts you can only get from a community artist.

All vendors are welcome to attend and display items for sale. Vendor applications are due by November 30. To receive a vendor application and reserve space please call Carol Lopez at (508) 505-6693.

The vendor fee is \$30 for a 6' table and \$75 for four 6' tables. The tables and chairs will be provided to all vendors, however, vendors will need to bring their own table covers.

All funds raised from the vendor fees will directly benefit the Alice May Lopez Statue Fund. The committee is raising \$100,000 to create a life-sized bronze statue in memorial of Alice May Lopez who passed away unexpectedly at the age of 49 in 2011. Alice was the founder and first director of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Housing Department.



Evening Out to Benefit MaDarrius to be Held on November 19

An evening fundraiser for Marcy and her family is being held on Saturday, November 19 from 8:00 p.m. to Midnight at the Quashnet Valley Country Club in Mashpee. The 21+ event is a follow-up to a wonderful, family friendly fundraiser that was held in October for Marcy Hendricks and her family that raised over \$4,000.

Tickets for the evening event are \$25 and will help to offset the rapidly rising medical costs Marcy and her family are facing. The fundraiser will feature a cash bar, light food and DJ Robert Peters.

As many people are aware of by now, the last few months for Marcy and her family have put more on their plate than most people can handle.

Her son Bryson, at the age of one, was diagnosed with a rare blood disease, sending Marcy down an uncertain and costly path of finding a match for a blood transfusion.

Then on August 28, her 14-year-old son, MaDarrius, suffered a spine injury in a dirt bike accident with a long road to recovery ahead of them.



For more information about the fundraiser or to purchase tickets in advance, please contact Tribal Councilwoman Winnie

Johnson-Graham at (508) 645-8365. Tickets will also be available at the door on November 19.

Photos from Cape Cod Cares for MaDarrius



Brian Weeden Receives NCAI National Award



Brian with a duplicate award to be placed in the Community and Government Center.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) presented Brian Moskwetah Weeden with the 2016 Youth Leadership Award for his continued dedication and commitment to providing extraordinary service to Indian Country. National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr. presented the award to Brian during the NCAI Youth Honoring Luncheon. Each year NCAI names a male and female recipient for this award. Lisa Chavez was named the female Youth Leadership Award honoree.

Grants Awarded in September and October *(continued)*

our people. We're a growing enterprise and government that requires resources, like the funding from these grants, to fuel that growth. We'll be in a better place for generations to come because of work like this."

Below is a brief overview of the new grants that were awarded to the Tribe in September and October.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (ICWA)

Title IV-E - a 2-year, \$300,000 grant for the purposes of developing a Title IV-E plan in our efforts to expand our child and family welfare services program. Produced by Judi Urquhart, Sarah Spruill and Leslie Jonas

EDUCATION

NYTP - a 4-year, \$955,231 Mâyuhuyâôk grant for the purposes of building pathways for

college. Produced by Judi Urquhart, Nitana Hicks-Greendeer

LANGUAGE

Esther Martinez Native American Language Preservation Act - a 3-year, \$890,000 grant for cultural language preservation for children 7 years old and younger. Produced by Jennifer Weston and Judi Urquhart

FACILITIES/ENERGY PLANNING

Produced by the CDC under Danielle Hill for Michael Maxim, and Facility Management - DOI Tribal Energy development capacity grant - assessing all of the energy our assets utilize - \$175,000

FACILITIES/ENERGY PLANNING

EMDP Energy and Mineral development program grant funding 2 feasibility studies for solar and wind power under the Facility

Management direction of Mike Maxim produced by Danielle Hill Planning & Development - \$45,000 for solar and \$125,000 for wind feasibility studies.

HHS FUNDING

IHS Tribal Management Grant (TMG) for a feasibility study on Tribal Self Governance under the direction of Councilwoman and HHS Liaison Cheryl Frye-Cromwell, produced by Billie Mills, Planning and Development Department - \$75,000 HHS self-governance.

E-MGMNT - Disaster Relief

Department of Homeland Security Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant designed to reduce the risk to individuals and tribal property from natural hazards under the direction of Nelson Andrews, produced by Danielle Hill, Planning and Development Department -\$90,000

Tribal Child Welfare Jurisdiction

We will now examine Transferring jurisdiction from state court to tribal court. ICWA requires that a state notify a tribe any time a member child (or child who may be a member) is involved in a state child welfare or adoption proceeding. The tribe must then indicate whether the child is in fact a tribal member or eligible for tribal membership. The tribe also must decide whether to become a participant in the state court proceeding or, alternatively, to pursue a transfer of the case to tribal court.

To facilitate such transfers, tribes have to have two things in place: a designated recipient of state notification (the state has to know whom to notify) and a process for responding. The Bureau of Indian Affairs collects name and contact information of designated notice recipients yearly, but only 35% of the reviewed tribal codes designate a specific tribal office or employee to receive and process such notification. There are gaps on the processing side as well: only 53% of the reviewed tribal codes included a process for the tribal court, social service departments, or attorneys to use to decide when and how to assert transfer jurisdiction. To take full advantage of the right to transfer jurisdiction, a tribe will need a formal, codified transfer process that describes who makes the decision to transfer, how that decision will be made, and what factors will be considered.

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 outer framework of a Peacemaking Circle. The outer frame of the Peacemaking Circle is the visible structure of the Circle. It is made up of five key elements:

1. Peacemakers: Peacemakers are the facilitators of the Circle. They help participants uphold the values, principles, and integrity of the Circle. They do not control the Circle; instead they serve the needs of the Circle as they arise.
2. Talking Stick: The Talking stick is held by whomever is speaking. It is passed to each member of the Circle who may speak when holding the talking stick. It creates a space for each participant's voice to be heard and also creates space for those not

speaking to focus their listening.

3. Guidelines: Guidelines are collectively created and inform our conduct in the Circle. In this way the guidelines are on display in our behavior.
4. Ceremonies. We choose the ceremonies for the Circle. They are inclusive, nondenominational, non-confrontational rituals that help draw people into the space and mindset of the participation in a Circle.
5. Consensus Decision-making: Making decisions by consensus honors the principles we established for the Circle's inner frame and helps participants stay grounded in the Circle as well as mindful of its purpose.

We will examine each of these key elements in future articles and understand the importance of each key to the Peacemaking Circle.

Native American Thanks Giving on 11/19

Tribal citizens in regalia along with family and friends from the community will gather at the Old Indian Meeting House on Saturday, November 19 for the 7th Annual Native American Thanks Giving. The annual celebration will start at 11:00 a.m. with an opening ceremony and the Prayers of Thanks Giving. It's a wonderful event to bring the community together and to take a moment and reflect on how far we have come and all that we have to be thankful for.

The celebration is open to anyone and everyone that would like to share. Following the ceremony at there will be a reception with native food and crafts at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center.

The annual celebration is organized and hosted by the Old Indian Meeting House Committee.

Sponsor an ICWA Child this Holiday Season

The ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) Department is asking for your help to put a smile on a child in our community by purchasing unwrapped gifts for an ICWA child. Now through December 1 ICWA is asking the community to consider sponsoring an ICWA child this season by purchasing Christmas gifts for them. Just a few gifts may not seem like much but it could make a world of a difference to a wonderful kid on Christmas morning.

Director of ICWA Catherine Hendricks works with these children on a daily basis and knows that it only takes a small act to make a difficult situation a little easier. "The holidays can be a really hard time for the kids we're working with," said Catherine. "A few gifts - a gesture showing our children that they are not forgotten - can make the difference between a situation that is almost unbearable and a heartwarming moment. We just want to make sure all of our children can find something to smile about on Christmas morning."

For more information or to pick up

a child's Christmas Wish List, please contact the ICWA Department at (508) 477-0208 x148 or stop by the department located in the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. Unwrapped gifts should be returned to the ICWA Department by December 1, 2016.

ICWA is committed to ensuring every native child and family has access to community-based, culturally appropriate services that help them grow up safe, spiritually strong, and free from abuse (physical, verbal, and/or sexual) and neglect. The department functions with a commitment to preserve and strengthen Mashpee Wampanoag families.



Medicare's Open Enrollment is Now

Open enrollment period for Medicare is going on now through December 7. Medicare Advantage (Part C) and Medicare Prescription (Part D) Plans change every year. It is very important to review your Medicare options during this period. You should have received a notice from your Prescription Drug or Medicare Advantage (HMO, PPO) Plan in September. Make sure you have read this notice - it explains the changes (premiums, copays, tiers) to your plan for 2017.

During the Annual Open Enrollment (October 15, 2016 - December 7, 2016), you will have a chance to change your plan. This change takes effect January 1, 2017. SHINE Counselors can help you understand your plan's changes, screen you for assistance programs and discuss other options you may have. If you do not change your plan during this period you may have to stay with your existing plan for another whole year. (Note: the open enrollment may not affect those with retiree coverage). SHINE counselors provide free Medicare counseling. For more information or to schedule an appointment with a SHINE counselor please call Tribal Health at (508) 477-0208 x166.

September Incentive Prize Winner



Congratulations to Teresa Stevens the Mashpee Wampanoag Family Dental Clinic September Incentive Prize Winner. Each month one lucky patient of the clinic is chosen at random as the winner and is able to select a prize. Prizes include items such as an electric toothbrush, a water pick or a dental care package.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Dental Clinic is part of the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit-Indian Health Services. The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and located directly behind the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. To make an appointment at the clinic or for more information please call the main office at (508) 477-6967.

CCDF Paint Night Starting December 2

The Cape Cod Child Development Fund (CCDF) at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is sponsoring a weekly parent and child paint night starting on Friday, December 2. The Paint Night is free and open to one adult and child per tribal household and will be held every Friday at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Space is limited each week to 10 adults and 10 children and you must RSVP. To reserve space in an upcoming paint night, please send an email to CCDF Program Assistant Eileen Miranda at emiranda@mwtribe.com or by calling (508) 477-0208 x 152.

The paint night will be held every Friday starting December 2 but will take a break from December 23, 2016 to January 13, 2017 for the holidays.

CCDF Program Manager Marcy Hendricks sees the family paint night as a natural extension to the programs already being offered through her department. "We're very excited about launching a fun, family oriented paint night at the Government Center in December," said Marcy. "My department is focused on supporting a strong, healthy family core. Part of that is accomplished with our childcare voucher program, which we are best known for, but we also have programs like the paint night that also support our larger goal of meeting the needs of the families in our community."

CCDF provides family oriented programs and payment vouchers to offset the cost of childcare to tribal families. The CCDF child care voucher program is on a first come first served basis and encourages families in the community to put in an application as soon as possible.

There are currently two programs being administered to assist families with childcare payments. The first is the CCDF tribal subsidy voucher and the second is a state subsidy. Both programs are income eligible programs for families living below the median income guideline.

To receive an application for childcare assistance, please stop by the CCDF department located in the Community and Government Center or contact Eileen Miranda at emiranda@mwtribe.com or at (508) 477-0208 x152. You may also reach out to CCDF Program Manager Marcy Hendricks directly by sending an email to mahendricks@mwtribe.com or calling her business cell phone (774) 238-6282.



Neekun: Registration Now Open

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is pleased to announce registration for the Neekun (Our House) After School program is now open. Neekun, a comprehensive after school program, will be held Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. accept during the February and April school vacation weeks when Neekun will run Tuesday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This program is for tribal students in grades K-6 and is being offered by the Mashpee Wampanoag Education Department, Youth Department, and Language Department.

The purpose of Neekun is to provide fun language, culture, and academic and enrichment activities in a safe community environment in order to enrich students' lives culturally, socially, and academically.

New this year, Neekun will provide programming from Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Indian Education program on Wednesdays. This will focus primarily on cultural education. Please see our focus areas below. We look forward to having your child(ren) in Neekun After School program!

Focus Area 1: Wôpanâak Culture and Wôpanâôt8âôk

Ceremony: Neekun will include daily ceremony and prayer where children will learn and practice circle protocol and smudging as an essential component to Mashpee Wampanoag life and health.

Language: Staff will implement language immersion activities and projects including songs, Wôpanâak literacy, vocabulary-building, and conversational skills.

Traditional music: Neekun youth will learn traditional eastern songs and Wôpanâak language songs.

Crafting: Neekun youth will learn a variety of contemporary and traditional crafting.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Neekun youth will learn about local ecosystems, including Mashpee waterways, traditional/modern methods of fishing, and local plant and animal life.

Intergenerational Learning: Neekun youth will interact with elders learning local history, lineage, creation stories, and crafting.

Focus Area 2: Healthy Lifestyles

Physical Fitness: Neekun staff will teach athletic skills and participants will engage in sports including, but not limited to, kickball, volleyball, and basketball. They will also learn and practice traits of good sportsmanship, an essential component of athleticism.

Healthy Snacks: Neekun staff will work with youth to prepare and serve healthy, low/no sugar snacks.

Traditional Foods: Neekun youth will learn about traditional local foods, planting, harvesting, and preparation practices.

Focus Area 3: Academic Achievement

Study Skills & Homework help: Neekun youth will learn transferable strategies for note taking and focused reviews. Staff will provide homework assistance, if requested, on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Neekun Program Goals:

- Integrate evidence-based youth development principles into all aspects of after school programming.
- Provide cultural awareness through language development, educational and traditional activities.
- Increase opportunities to boost youth resiliency, leadership skills, and peer-to-peer and intergenerational relationship building.
- Provide opportunities to develop performing arts and oratory skills.
- Provide academic and mentoring support to build students' confidence and expectations for achievement.
- Provide daily opportunities to increase and maintain physical fitness and an overall healthy lifestyle.

Program Dates & Location: Program runs Tuesday November 1st, 2016 - Thursday June 15th, 2016. Neekun is 3pm-5pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Neekun programming will also be held 8:30am-4:30pm Tuesdays-Fridays during February & April vacation weeks. Neekun will be closed for all major holidays observed by the Town of Mashpee's school system and will also observe their weather related closings. Neekun After School Program will be held in the language classrooms and gym at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community & Government Center at 483 Great Neck Road South Mashpee, MA. Pickup time is between 4:30pm and 5pm each day. Program is closed promptly at 5:00pm. Transportation in MWT vans is available from the K.C. Coombs and Quashnet Schools for up to 20 youth.

Enrollment & Cost: The Neekun After School Program is for Mashpee Wampanoag youth enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 6.

Program is \$35 for the after school component and \$20 for February vacation week and \$20 for April vacation week (a total of \$75 for the school year).

Register online by clicking on the announcement tab at www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com or you may pick up an application at the Community & Government Center. Print applications must be returned to Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Youth Programs Director Tracy Kelley at 483 Great Neck Road South.

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

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.

Vice Chair Represents Tribe at Tribal Nations Conference

Vice Chairwoman Jessie “little doe” Baird joined other leaders from federally recognized tribes across Indian Country at the 8th Annual White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington DC. The conference, which was held from September 25 to September 27, provided an opportunity for tribal leaders to work directly with President Obama and members of his Cabinet on a wide range of issues important to Native Americans.

President Obama formed a relationship with tribal nations never before seen in the history of the United States. This meeting with President Obama - the President’s eighth and final of his Presidency - focused not only on the Obama administration legacy of support in policies and actions for Indian Country but also on ways to ensure that tribal nations always have a seat at the table when facing important decisions about their community.

Vice Chairwoman Baird understands there’s a turbulent political climate in Washington DC right now and felt it was important that our voice as a tribal nation was heard at the conference and with future administrations. “It’s so empowering to see tribal leaders from across the country come together at this conference and work cooperatively to tackle an aggressive agenda of items that are impacting our communities,” said Vice Chairwoman Baird. “As elected tribal leaders, we found it necessary to agree upon a strategic plan moving forward setting the baseline for future administrations.”

Vice Chairwoman Baird added “We also discussed the 117 days remaining in President Obama’s administration and what can be done to further the goals of Indian Country before the next administration arrives in January. We also discussed coming appointments for the new administration, Indian Country priorities,” said Vice Chairwoman Baird who saw these as a few other important topics tack-



Vice Chairwoman Baird at Tribal Nations Conference with other Northeast Tribal Leaders

led over the course of the two-day conference.

Other vital activity conducted at the conference was the development of policy guidance for the incoming administration. Vice Chairwoman Baird added that they delivered detailed guidance on key issues in order to ensure continued forward movement on these issues and to build upon the work already set in motion by the Obama administration. Tribal leaders provided the guidance and policy statements for the following: Environment, Health and Human Services, Indian Education, Agriculture, Budget and Finance, Veterans, Land into Trust, Youth and Indian Child Welfare Act, Energy, Public Safety, Transportation, Economic Development, Sovereignty and Government to Government Consultation, Water Rights, Workforce Development, Climate Change, Broadband, Sacred Sites and Cultural Resources.

There were also informative cabinet level meetings at the conference. Each elected leader was afforded two direct cabinet-level meetings. Vice Chairwoman Baird attended the education session and the healthcare session. Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell attended both sessions as well as the Directors of the respective departments.

Education is a topic close to Vice Chairwoman Baird’s heart and an area she can add significant value to the national dialogue. “During the education session I pressed for the

Bureau of Indian Education to begin the work of rule making between the Federal Government and States that carves out the right for tribes to establish tribal charter schools utilizing that portion of federal dollars allotted to the Indian children in each given state,” said Vice Chairwoman Baird. “There was also extensive discussion regarding the new ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). It replaces No Child Left Behind and addresses critical gaps. One of the positive new requirements in the ESSA is that each state must now consult with tribes to incorporate cultural competency teaching for American Indian students. I will be reaching out to the MA DOE in the coming weeks.”

Secretary Sally Jewell as well as Mary Smith, Director of the IHS and Mertha Beedle, Director of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration joined Vice Chairwoman Baird at the Healthcare session. Vice Chairwoman Baird noted that the discussions at this session centered around the need for more doctors and faster turn around at IHS clinics. The topic of addiction was one of the central topics broached by several tribal leaders.

Vice Chairwoman Baird added “beside offering the Policy Statement, I asked that the IHS and SAMHSA consider making a proposed rule that would more succinctly define ‘Evidence-based Treatment’ in a way that expands the option for funded prevention and treatment to include ceremony and sweat. Currently, these are not considered ‘evidence-based’ where other non-medication treatments are; such as AA and NA meetings and 12-step programs.”

With a strategic plan and guidelines set to direct the Tribal Nations Conference going forward, Tribal Leaders can be cautiously optimistic that the incredible work completed in Indian Country over the past eight years will continue under a new administration.

Eagle’s Nest: Maple Leaves *by Medicine Man Guy “Soaring Eagle” Cash*

A strong maple with its sweet runnings starts to burst into flames, as the Creator uses Mother Earth as its pallet. The more he paints the brighter the Maple has become. Sitting in my chair, two chairs away from the window pane, each visit I am in awe of the wistful stroke of his brush left behind. Clinging to life as thy, the strength and beauty the maple has endured as its leaves fall gracefully, plucked by the wind. The maple outside my window begins its cycle once again. So great maple as your baby’s helicopter in to

the wind, only to land on Mother Earth to germinate once again. We give thanks to you for sharing your beauty with us, we see your beauty imitating the color of the rose, as children we remember putting your babies on our nose. Running joyfully around the tree looking for another baby was thee. As you display your beautiful colors of yellow, orange and red it’s almost time great maple to go to bed. And as you sleep I will be watching and waiting for your Beautiful colors for all to see, for it’s your cycle that inspires me.



Tribe Hosts Tribal Leaders Summit and Environmental Conference

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Natural Resources Department (NRD) welcomed tribal leaders from across Indian Country along with representatives from the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), federal partners and leading education and science professionals as the host of the 2016 Tribal Leaders Summit and the EPA Region One Environmental Conference. The one-day summit and the three-day conference, which were held back to back, provided tribal leaders the opportunity to meet and share environmental concerns in their area with other tribes and the EPA.

Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Cedric Cromwell opened the summit with welcoming remarks. Chairman Cromwell used the time to set the stage for the work that would be done over the next few days and challenged the participants to make the best use of the break out sessions to



Chairman Cromwell with J. Sappier at Social



NRD Director Casey Thornbrugh at Social

explore everything from policy and funding barriers to environmental careers and aquaculture startups.

"It's an honor and a great opportunity to have a group of industry and policy leaders sitting at our table," said Chairman Cromwell. "Our Natural Resources Department Director Casey Thornbrugh and Assistant Director Chuckie Green did an amazing job organizing the summit and I'm confident we made the best use of everyone's time. I believe we all walked away with a better understanding of the environmental issues we're facing in our region and a better plan for addressing them as we move forward."

The summit, which included an aggressive agenda of topics to cover, was not all work. The Tribe hosted an evening potluck social on October 19 led by Aunt June with contributions of food from many families. Medicine Man Guy Cash tended the fire and drummer provided social songs giving the attendees a glimpse into the Mashpee Wampanoag rich history and culture.

Fall Social on November 26

On Saturday, November 26 the sounds of an intertribal social - complete with drumming, singing, round dancing and the hum of good conversation - mixed with the smell of home cooked dishes will fill the Mashpee Wampanoag Community and Government Center as the Tribe will be hosting its annual fall social. The social will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the gymnasium and is open to all tribal citizens, family, friends and neighboring tribes.

Councilwoman Winnie Johnson-Graham who helped organize the social this year truly sees this as a community event. "There's something special about our fall social. You come in on a cool fall afternoon and can feel the warmth of our community the minute you walk in our doors," said Winnie. "It's at events like this that you're reminded just how special it is to be a part of our tribe."

In addition to the drumming and food, the annual social provides space for local vendors to sell their crafts. If you are interested in a vendor table, drumming or would just like more information, please contact Tribal Councilwoman Winnie Johnson-Graham at egraham@mwtribe.com or at (508) 645-8365.



Jamaal with his grandmother, Bernadine Pocknett, at the reception prior to the ceremony in his honor.

Jamaal Recognized for Outstanding Career

One of the best players to ever step on the field for the Falmouth High School was honored on Friday, September 30. The ceremony - organized by the Falmouth High School Quarterback Club - honored Tribal Citizen Jamaal Branch.

Jamaal was honored in multiple ways as part of his celebratory night at the Friday night game between the Clippers and Dennis-Yarmouth. Festivities included an honoring song from Eastern Suns.

In an interview with the Cape Cod Times Jamaal said, "I'm humbled." "It's a definite honor. Mashpee and Falmouth took me in, always treated me well and gave me a lot of opportunities."

Jamaal added that having the traditional component to the ceremony made it that much more special. "I grew up dancing

in the powwows," Jamaal said. "It's a part of me that I couldn't shake if I wanted to. It's just family and my heritage."

Jamaal was a four-time varsity letterman in football and track teams for Falmouth, twice earning all-league honors in each sport before graduating in 1999.

Jamaal furthered his career on and off the field at Colgate University, where he played college football from 2000 to 2004. Jamaal led all of Division I football with 168.8 rushing yards and 12.5 points per game in 2003, setting NCAA records for yards (2,026), touchdowns (25), rushes (338), 100-yard games (11) and consecutive 100-yard games (11). He earned the 2003 Walter Payton Award, given annually to the best player in Division I-AA football. It is widely considered to be the equivalent of the Heisman Tro-

phy for Division I-A. He graduated in 2005, and was later inducted into Colgate's Hall of Fame.

Jamaal went on to fulfill a lifelong goal on December 29, 2006, when he was signed by the New Orleans Saints from their practice squad to the main roster. Two days later he appeared in a regular season game against the Carolina Panthers and scored a touchdown. Jamaal remained a member of the Saints until 2008.

Jamaal is the son of Sherry Pocknett and now lives in Orlando where he is studying to become a registered nurse.

Photos from the Annual Granny Squannit Walk on October 22



COMMUNITY



How Should Thanksgiving be Taught in Schools?

I'd like to offer my perspective as a Wampanoag Elder and as an educator on the subject of American Thanksgiving holiday. Each grade level opens the minds of students to greater understanding. I have never been invited to Thanksgiving dinner outside of my Native community so my comments are based on what I've read or seen on TV about how American people celebrate Thanksgiving. It is often depicted as an extended family gathering with a major feast. Sometime during the celebration members of the family express what they feel thankful for and about. Children attending are introduced to the idea of publically expressing thankfulness. I'm unaware if anyone in the families mentions my ancestors during their festivities. Ever since President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday American teachers were comfortable just saying Indians ate dinner with the Pilgrims at the first thanksgiving. I do know that pre-school children hear for perhaps the first time about "the Indians who met the Pilgrims". They are unlikely to learn the name of which indigenous nation hosted the first English settlers.

Rather than addressing the myth of the first thanksgiving to the younger grades I'd recommend teachers focus more on the sentiment of

being thankful. Gratitude is the most powerful thanksgiving story, from my perspective as a Wampanoag. When young children grasp gratitude in a real way beyond ritual our country will be greater. Dressing children up as pilgrims, Indians, and turkeys is far removed from what our children should learn about thanksgiving ceremony. In Wampanoag culture we have four major thanksgiving ceremonies for each season with several smaller thanksgivings together for greeting such things as strawberries, green corn, and spawning fish. Nothing in our ancestors' world was taken for granted.

Middle school students can not only grasp the sentiment of gratitude / thankfulness they can learn about the Wampanoag as a nation of people that were friendly enough to accept refugees/pilgrims into their territory. The Wampanoag also saw to it they were fed and left in peace at the village of Pawtuxet. We taught them not only to plant but which foods (fish, plants, and game) were healthy to harvest at what time of the year. This part of the world is totally different than England and Holland. Each village in Wampanoag territory was expected to feed its own people including the new English village. The first English harvest was indeed cause for celebration and thanks.

High school students are hopefully mature enough to understand the myth of the so-called first thanksgiving. The Wampanoag leadership accepted the encampment of English as friends through treaty. The Mayflower ship sailed away without them. Twenty three men, women, and children left in a strange land across the Atlantic Ocean surviving at the goodness of our tolerance. The first settlement of English was an eccentric group trying to figure out what their god wanted of them. Not all the settlers were Puritans/pilgrims. Others were Quakers, Separatists, Loyalists, and entrepreneurs willing to sail to Virginia to settle at Jamestown. The Puritan religion died out after only one generation. One could actually consider it a cult. High school and college students can conduct research around the early relationship between the Wampanoag and colonists. Yet again I return to the spirit of thanksgiving as expressing gratitude. We can all be proud that our country has a national holiday centered upon simply being thankful.

by Ramona Peters