



# Nashauonk Mittark™



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DRUM BEAT

DEPARTMENTS

IN THE NEWS

COMMUNITY

ELECTION NEWS

## Chairman's Message



Wuneekeesuq Nutawâm (Greetings to my Tribal Community),

Results! As I reflect on my first year and a half as your Chairman, I think about the challenges we have faced and the progress we have made. And while we always strive to do more, I am amazed by the results we have achieved together. I would like to share with you a sampling of these results:

The Tribe has partnered with a new investment team as we move forward on our plans to develop a resort style casino.

We have submitted an amendment to our land in trust application to include land in Fall River for this casino.

We have continued the restoration and opened the Tribe's Museum and the Old Indian Meetinghouse, which was a major concern of the community. The Museum is now open with the gracious support of Tribal Elders Ellen Hendricks, Mr. and Mrs. Putnam Peters, Carol Lopez, and Pauline Peters.

We have resolved the legal problems with the federal government that arose over the actions of our former Chairman. This case is now closed.

We have secured \$12.7 million in funding for the new Tribal Community and Government Center by utilizing groundbreaking and cutting edge financial design. There will be fair bidding for construction jobs, skilled jobs and labor jobs. This is an example of creating an economy and structure

(Continued on page 3)

## Mashpee Wampanoag Museum Receives Federal Grant

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has been selected to receive a FY2010 Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Service Award to assist the Tribe in the sustained operation of the Mashpee Wampanoag Museum. This grant will allow the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to tell its own history, specifically covering the Tribe's history from first contact to the present-day, which is not told anywhere else. This project will serve as a resource both for tribal members as well as an educational tool for teaching Mashpee Wampanoag history, from a tribal perspective, to non-Native visitors.

This award has been made possible by a wide collaboration of The Museum Committee, many Tribal Elders, Tribal Council as represented by Councilor Trish Keliinui and Councilor Gordon Harris, Tribal Development Officer Wanda Jean Lord, Congressman William Delahunt's office, and Dr. J. Cedric Woods (Lumbee), Director of the Native American Institute at UMASS. This project will continue to be a collaborative effort, and input from Tribal members is absolutely necessary to its success.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Museum is one of only 24 institutions to receive this grant in 2010. IMLS Acting Director Marsha L. Semmel said, "Through their proposed cultural, artistic, and scientific programming, these 24 institutions will reach and inspire thousands of people today and for generations to come. IMLS is proud to support their work."

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination

with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development.



*"Through their proposed cultural, artistic, and scientific programming, these 24 institutions will reach and inspire thousands of people today and for generations to come. IMLS is proud to support their work."*

## Fall River Mayor Supports Land in Trust Application

Mayor Will Flanagan of Fall River has written a forceful letter in support of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Land in Trust application. A copy of the letter is on page 7.

## Calendar of Events

**October 4 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal (MWT) Headquarters

**October 4 – 5:30 p.m.**

Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club

**October 6 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Food Pantry, MWT Headquarters

**October 7 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Alcoholics Anonymous, 33 Great Neck Road South

**October 7 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Beading and Crafts, MWT Headquarters

**October 9 – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

College Essay Writing Workshop, MWT Headquarters

**October 10 – 2:00 p.m.**

General Body Meeting, Mashpee High School Auditorium

**October 14 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Alcoholics Anonymous, 33 Great Neck Road South

**October 14 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Beading and Crafts, MWT Headquarters

**October 18 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Food Pantry, MWT Headquarters

**October 18 – 5:30 p.m.**

Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club

**October 20 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Food Pantry, MWT Headquarters

**October 21 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Alcoholics Anonymous, 33 Great Neck Road South

**October 21 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Beading and Crafts, MWT Headquarters

**October 25 – 5:30 p.m.**

Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club

**October 28 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Alcoholics Anonymous, 33 Great Neck Road South

**October 28 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Beading and Crafts, MWT Headquarters

**November 1 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Food Pantry, MWT Headquarters

**November 1 – 5:30 p.m.**

Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club

**November 2 – 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

State and Federal Election Day

**November 3 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Food Pantry, MWT Headquarters

**November 4 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Alcoholics Anonymous, 33 Great Neck Road South

**November 4 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Beading and Crafts, MWT Headquarters



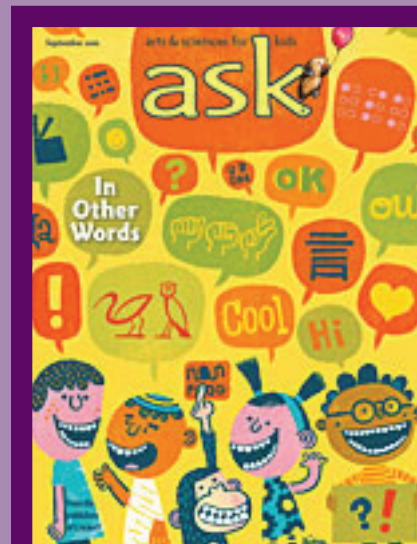
\* **Michael and Gabrielle Poindexter** proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Amelia Marcellino Poindexter. Amelia was born at 8:23 a.m. on March 26th at Dewitt Army Hospital in Fort Belvoir, VA, weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces. Amelia is the great granddaughter of Ann Peters and John P. Marcellino, Sr.

\* The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe welcomes **Kassie Moore** as an Indian Child Welfare Act Assistant. We are very proud to have Kassie as a productive member of the ICWA Department, assisting Tribal children and their families.

## Language Program Featured in ASK Magazine

The Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP) was featured in the September issue of ASK, a magazine about art, science, and history for kids. The article entitled "Wampanoag Spoken Here" discussed how language is a priceless treasure. ASK highlighted the experience of father and son Earl Mills, Sr. and Earl Mills, Jr. and the "living bond that joins generations together." To learn more about this issue, visit [askmagkids.com](http://askmagkids.com).

For more information about upcoming language classes, visit [www.wlrp.org](http://www.wlrp.org).



## Edna Coombs Haynes, 1923 – 2010

**O**n June 7, 1923, Edna Coombs Haynes was born to proud parents Otis and Myrtle Coombs on Nantucket, Massachusetts. At nine years old, Edna lost her mom in 1933, and later lost her dad when she was 13 years old. She was then raised by her older brother, Kenneth Carlton Coombs, and her two sisters, Eleanor R. Coombs and Myrtle Coombs.

After attending boarding school in Massachusetts, Edna moved to Los Angeles, California in the 1950s to get away from the bad weather and start a new life. She worked for the Los Angeles County Public Social Services for over 21 years.

Edna enjoyed travelling, reading, playing card games, bingo spending time with her family, and helping others. Please never touch her plants, as she loved them dearly.

Edna passed away in the arms of her son, surrounded by her daughter-in-law. God then wrapped his arms around her, and took her to the golden gates of everlasting life.

Edna was preceded in death by her parents, Otis and Myrtle Coombs; a brother, Kenneth Carlton Coombs; and a sister, Eleanor R. Coombs. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Leslie Pinckney of Winnetka, CA; a sister, Myrtle Coombs-Bannister of Connecticut; a grandson, Elliot C. Pinckney, a niece, Eleanor Bannister-Pitt and her husband Sterling; two grandnieces, Christine Gitten and Crystal Pitt; a great grandniece, Amanda; an adopted grandson, Derrion Wallace; and many cousins and friends.

## Old Tymers Game

An old tymers softball game was held Labor Day weekend.



## Chairman's Message *(continued)*

that will house all of the tribal services and support that directly service our nation.

We have assisted the Health Department in providing services and financial assistance for Tribal Members for prescription drugs, substance abuse support, Elder services and hospice care, Medicaid funding for staff to provide services, a SAMSA grant, \$3 million in funding from Indian Health Services for a health administration building and a health clinic building, and RPMS funding and support.

We have supported the Housing Department toward securing over \$2 million in HUD funding toward building housing on Old Meetinghouse Road, as well as providing additional housing counseling services and assistance for Tribal Members.

We have conducted General Membership meetings that display the state of the business of the Tribe, and during three separate meetings displayed all of the financial information from when this administration got into office through Fall of 2009. There will be new tribal financial reporting delivered to the Tribe from our new in-house tribal financial system currently being implemented by our tribal finance department and product consultants. The financial reports will be available at the October 2010 General membership meeting.

We have decreased spending from loan sources on Tribal operations from \$330,000 per month down to \$198,000 per month. There has been a substantial decrease in contractor, lobbyist and legal funding. The Tribal Finance Department manages all of the tribal finances and is not managed directly by the Tribal Council.

We have enhanced communication to Tribal members through the Nashaouk Mittark and the Tribal website.

We have implemented and funded Tribal Court operations, including three new judges.

We have increased jobs for Tribal members through the Tribe, while at the same time increasing the services available to Tribal members.

We have executed successful Powwows with record-breaking attendance.

We have utilized Harvard University Nation Building programs to assist our nation's growth and government services.

We have supported the Natural Resources Department in obtaining a boat from the DEA, as well as for grant funding and support of their shellfish project.

We have implemented youth support programs including Harvard Medical summer youth program, Aroostook Band of Mic Mac summer camp, Youth Sobriety Powwow, ICWA camp-out and camp week, Tribal Youth Council attending Youth Summit in California, Toni-Vision advocacy and parent and youth support seminars, a new ICWA Director and Assistant ICWA Director, Youth Tribal Council, Youth Advisory committee, the Spirit Lake basketball tournament, Kung-Fu classes, tutoring, scholarships, and education workshops.

We have established the Elders Tribal Council and supported their efforts including the Raising of the Flag ceremony at Mashpee rotary, the Tribal Flag display in Washington, DC, and providing a mechanism for the Elders to provide community support and communication.

We have worked with the Enrollment Committee to process an incredible backlog of applications, and we have approved additional funding to support the Enrollment Committee to continue to properly and efficiently review and process applications.

I always ask myself, can this administration and tribal operations do and get better and continuously improve? The answer is yes! Are we perfect? The answer is no. Do we listen and learn and do the best possible job every day? The answer is yes! Now, I ask you a question. What can you do to provide good medicine and positive energy toward achieving our goals and growing together?

Cedric Cromwell  
Qaqemasq (Running Bear)

## Tribal Health Initiates Pilot Partnership

An initial meeting was held recently between representatives of Hospice & Palliative Care of Cape Cod (H&PCCC) and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Health Department to explore how tribal members experiencing the impact of serious illness could best receive the care to which they are entitled. Tribal Member Bette June Texeira, RNCM, works as an RN Case Manager for H&PCCC which is the only independent non-profit offering hospice services in the area, and has a mission to take care of all who need them. They provide care that relieves pain and manages symptoms so patients and their families can enjoy the best possible quality of life. Services are provided to the entire family unit; however, the family's members define that unit for themselves.

Bettejune helped organize the meeting because of her conviction that many eligible tribal members are unaware of the many ways in which hospice care can meet and respect their physical, emotional and spiritual needs at this sacred time, much sooner and longer than most would expect. H&PCCC's "Open Door" philosophy allows services to those eligible without necessarily giving up any other treatments or therapies such as chemotherapy, radiation, dialysis, or anything else that helps alleviate pain or sickness. They also serve anyone eligible regardless of ability to pay.

The meeting included Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Health Liaison Cheryl Frye-Cromwell and Tribal Health Director Rita Gonsalves, together with Bettejune, H&PCCC Chief Executive David Rehm, Vice-President for Business Development Lise Lambert, and Communications Director Melissa Roberts Weidman. Tribal members will be part of the planning process.

The conversation brought up many exciting possibilities for collaboration. One idea involves creating a specially tailored program that could integrate traditional medicine ways with a full range of benefits that includes prescriptions, durable medical equipment such as hospital beds, wheel chairs, walkers and commodes, and an interdisciplinary team of health care professionals. Another idea involved the

possibility of including young people as volunteers to spend time with ailing elders. One of the primary goals of hospice is to "meet people where they are," both literally and figuratively. This means that they help patients and family members to maintain the most comfort possible for as long as possible, in their own homes, practicing their own ways. Rita Gonsalves said, "Hospice is an important tool for expanding our community's definition of wellness to encompass the full range of life. We are looking to create an innovative partnership model that allows us to each learn from each others' traditions."

An open informational meeting will be held on Sunday, October 10 at 4:30 p.m. following the Monthly Membership meeting at the Mashpee High School, Old Barnstable Road, Mashpee. Anyone wishing to learn more about the collaboration can call the Tribal Health Department at (508) 477-0209.

By Cheryl Frye-Cromwell

## Education Update

### College Essay Writing Workshop

Are you getting ready to apply to a college or a graduate program? If you are, it is not too soon to start working on your essay. To help, the Mashpee Wampanoag Education Committee and the Indian Education Program will be hosting a college essay writing workshop on Saturday, October 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Tribal executive building.

The essay is an integral part of any college or graduate school application. The essay provides the admissions office additional information about the applicant that can not be found in a transcript or an SAT score. A well-written essay can get a student with average grades into the college of their choice; a lackluster essay can keep an "A" student out.

If you are getting ready to apply to college or graduate school, this workshop is just what you need. The workshop is free and space is limited. Please respond to reserve your seat at (508) 566-6269. Refreshments will be served.

## Health Department Notes



**IMPORTANT-**To All MassHealth, Commonwealth Care, and Health SafetyNet members:

When you receive your annual Eligibility Review Form from MassHealth, it is very important that you fill it out and send it back as soon as possible. Failure to return the completed form on time will result in an interruption in service, and you will no longer be covered for Doctor appointments, prescriptions, or other services. Contract Health Services will not be responsible for payment for any charges resulting from the failure to return your Eligibility Review Form.

If you have any questions, please call the Health Department at (508) 477-0209 and ask for the MassHealth Team, Kimberly Frye, Wendy Pocknett, and Winona Pocknett.

## Housing Department

The Housing Department has been working on the low-income housing development on Meetinghouse Road in Mashpee. Because our land is not currently in trust, we must go through local permitting. This has not been an easy task due to all of the restrictions on local zoning. We currently need your help with our strategy for our housing project. If you are a resident of Massachusetts, and a registered voter, we are asking you to "VOTE NO" on the November State Ballet Petition #09-02 A Law relative to Comprehensive Permits and Regional Planning. Also, if you are a resident of Mashpee and a registered voter we are asking you to "VOTE YES" on the October 19th town warrant Zoning By-Law amendment subsection 174-47.B(5) and 174-47.B(10). If you have any questions or would like a copy of the full question on either of these ballots, please call Alice Lopez at (508) 477-0208 ext. 211.

## Fishing Sovereignty Resolution

In July 2009, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council adopted a resolution prohibiting fishing in and/or distributing fish from an area closed due to contamination. The penalty for violation is severe: suspension of the right to fish. The purpose of the resolution is to protect people from contaminated fish, and to protect the indigenous fishing rights of the Mashpee Wampanoag people.



The Resolution emphasizes that health and safety concerns are an appropriate and necessary component of Mashpee Wampanoag hunting and fishing rights, as an aspect of self-government and stewardship of natural resources.

Perhaps some consider it strange that the Council would have to pass a resolution against contaminated fishing: Isn't it basic good sense to avoid eating contaminated fish? And if that's good sense, isn't it also good sense not to sell or transfer contaminated fish to other people? But the fact is such an incident happened, and the Council decided to act, to make it clear that the Mashpee Wampanoag are fulfilling their stewardship responsibilities.

The incident that led to the resolution happened just when the Council and the Fish and Wildlife Commission were working with the state and towns to clarify and protect Mashpee Wampanoag fishing rights. The incident raised suspicions among state and town

officials, who used the incident as an example why they shouldn't work with the Council and the Commission.

Sovereignty is not just a legal concept; it is a way of life. Mashpee Wampanoag fishing rights are recognized by a long succession of laws – treaties, statutes, and decisions – from colonial days into modern times, putting the Nation in a strong position. But it is up to the People to live this sovereignty and stewardship every day.

There is a teaching that says, "When nations get strong they often pick fights, and when they are weak they behave better; this is the opposite of what is wise." Mashpee Wampanoag fishing people are in a strong position, and don't need to pick fights. They can work cooperatively with non-Indians. They can sympathize with people who don't have indigenous fishing rights, recognizing we are all humans, but some of us have lost or given up our ancient ways. Those who have preserved their ancient ways are teachers to the rest. This is wisdom and strength.

By Peter d'Errico

## Economic Development News

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Economic Development Committee is updating their business directory of tribally owned businesses.

If you are a business owner, please submit your profile to [greg@firstlighttrading.com](mailto:greg@firstlighttrading.com). Your profile should include your name, company name, address, phone number, email address and a brief description of your business.

## Tribal Court Update

In the May Mittark I included an article that describes the first three "Canons" of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Court Code of Ethics. A Canon is a fundamental principle that guides the judge's conduct. There are ten Canons in all. Our new Code of Ethics is used to guide the tribal court judges in their efforts to maintain a professional level of ethical performance in their duties. The Canons are similar to, but not identical with, the Canons of Judicial Ethics adopted by the American Bar Association. In this month's article, I will cover Canon 4.

**Canon 4** – A judge should extend proper deference to the history and culture of the Tribe.

This Canon is not found in the ABA canons. It reflects the fact that tribal courts are unique and that they must respect the history and culture of the tribe. While states may be limited to formal statutes a tribe can look to the special extra judicial circumstances of a tribe. The court can and should consider the past practices of the tribe. This provision recognizes this requirement. It is a difficult Canon to apply since there is no list of what is and what is not a historical practice or a definitive roster of cultural attributes that should be recognized. It will be up to each judge, based upon the evidence presented, to determine to what extent these practices should be recognized by the Court.

By Judge Henry Sockbeson



## Introduction to PumukQien Collins, Behavioral Health/Clinical Therapist

**G**reetings my name is PumukQien Collins. I am honored and thrilled to have the opportunity to introduce myself to you. I am an enrolled member of the Nipmuck/Nipmuc Chaubunagungamaug and Hassanimisco Tribal Communities. My respect and honor to my Mashpee Wampanoag Relations as my older siblings are enrolled Tribal members of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

I am a licensed clinical mental health therapist and social worker, working with behavioral health, substance abuse, trauma, wellbriety, and mental/emotional wellness. I work under the Tribal Health Department, where I have also volunteered for quite some time. Most recently, I have been contracted through Contract Health Services (I H S) to provide behavioral health services and have worked under the SAMHSA Earth Recovery Project providing substance abuse services.

I received my Bachelors in Human Services with a specialization in substance abuse counseling, and my Masters in Counseling/Psychology with a specialization in professional counseling.

I am a Board Certified Professional Counselor by the American Psychotherapy Association, as well as a National Certified Counselor. Most recently, I have become eligible for clinical mental health counseling certification. I have memberships with various professional counseling associations. These credentials provide me with a strong fundamental and ethical foundation of clinical practice and expertise.

I have expertise working with various forms and levels of trauma, crisis intervention/ management, and understanding the impact of trauma on the individual and family, including generational and historical trauma of Native communities. I utilize a trauma informed, strengths-based approach, informed with the practice of various theories and modalities (ex: humanistic/family systems/cognitive-behavioral) in my work when providing services. I work with adults, teens, children, individuals, and families - both male and female.

I have worked in the field of human services/direct services for over 16 years at various professional levels and development, along with a commitment to volunteer work, including supervisory and administrative skills. These last five years have allowed me to build a strong core of clinical expertise.

While clinical expertise is valuable, it is how one works with the individual and family that really matters. The relationship between the therapist and client is essential to the healing process. I am not only from the Native culture, but I bring knowledge and efforts to bridge the gaps between the Traditional and Western Medicines. These differences are often seen and felt by Tribal Communities when seeking out services from providers and have often become barriers.

It is important to offer clinical services that are open and understanding to the individual/family's identity, beliefs, cultural norms, and Traditional ways. My professional practice and unique perspective allows me to offer that balance, and allows me to work with you on the best approach to find a way of Healing that will meet your needs and goals.

But, it is important to me to help you to find what you need. If I am not the right person, I will assist in helping you find someone that you can connect to and feel comfortable.

My goal is to honor you and the culture of Mashpee Wampanoag.

In that, I am grateful to each of you for allowing me to share about myself. I am open to any and all questions that you may have about me, my practice

and service delivery. Where you have been and what you have seen in the past, gives you strength today. Whatever steps that you would like to take towards your future may seem difficult - but you can find hope.

I look forward to offering support to you on your Path of Healing.

Thank you -  
PumukQien Collins  
M.A., LMHC, LSWA

### New Enrollment Director



Meet our new Tribal Enrollment Director Rita A. Lopez.

Q. What experience do you bring to the Tribal Enrollment Department?

A. I worked 22 years for The Gillette Company as a Sr. Systems Analyst, servicing Global business partners on the phone and in person, supporting all facets of computer systems from A-Z. I have an Associates Degree in Computer Science from Newbury College and Project Management Degree from George Washington University.

Q. What are your future goals in your new position?

A. The Enrollment Department and Committee will continue to complete the roll as soon as can be expected and we also expect to complete a Tribal Census in 2011.

### Save The Date

Wampanoag Cultural Day will be held on Saturday, November 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Quashnet Elementary School in Mashpee.

More information to come.

## Fall River Mayor Supports the Tribe's Land in Trust Application

**M**ayor Will Flanagan of Fall River has written a forceful letter in support of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Land in Trust application. The Tribe's Land in Trust application was amended in July to include 300 acres in Fall River for the purpose of developing a world-class resort style casino. A copy of the letter is below.



**WILLIAM A. FLANAGAN**  
*Mayor*

### **City of Fall River** **Massachusetts** Office of the Mayor

August 17, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Taking land in trust for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

Dear Secretary Salazar:

As the Mayor of the City of Fall River, Massachusetts, I am writing to express my support for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's efforts to have land placed into trust as their initial reservation. This application, which has recently been amended to include land in Fall River, is currently under review at the Department of the Interior.

Over the past several months, The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the City of Fall River have been working as partners to expand economic development which will benefit the city and the Tribe. Like the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the City of Fall River suffers from crushing unemployment. We have literally thousands of good men and women who are ready and able to work as soon as jobs become available. Development of the land that the Tribe is seeking to have placed in trust will provide the good jobs that are so desperately needed in this area. In addition, revenue that will be provided to the city through an Intergovernmental Agreement will allow us to fund the public safety, education and infrastructure projects that are so important to the health of this city and the surrounding region.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe not only has deep historical ties to the Fall River area and many tribal members living in the area today; they have made a commitment to be strong partners and good neighbors to the City of Fall River. I ask that you give us the ability to move forward with this partnership, which will benefit the City of Fall River, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I ask that you expeditiously and favorably review the Tribe's land in trust application.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

William A. Flanagan  
Mayor



**Nashauonk  
Mittark™**

483 Great Neck Road South  
Mashpee, MA 02649

## ELECTION NEWS

### Seat Open On Election Committee

**T**he Election Committee is looking for dedicated tribal members interested in helping to oversee and assure a fair and open election process. Presently there is one open seat on the Election Committee and a need for alternates.

The next tribal election will be held on Sunday, February 13, 2011 when Council members Gordon Harris and Patricia Keliinui are each up for reelection to four year terms of office.

Nomination petitions will be made available on or before before December 12, 2010 and will be issued to potential candidates who will also receive clearly stated guidelines regarding the responsibility of the candidate in order to successfully qualify to be listed on the ballot. The guidelines will include but not be limited to the following:

- » Candidate must be an enrolled tribal member at least 25 years of age
- » Candidate must not have been convicted of a felony within the last five yearsCandidate must have signatures of at least 25 eligible tribal voters
- » Candidate must have certification of attendance in at least six tribal meetings either General Body or Council meetings or combination thereof in the 12 months preceding the date of the election. Certification of attendance at these meetings must be obtained by the secretary or tribal historian no later than 4:30 pm on January 7, 2011

A list of registered voters will be posted at the December 12 General Body Tribal Meeting and thereafter at the Wampanoag Tribal Offices until the election.

Anyone interested in serving on the Election Committee as a committee member or alternate should send their request for consideration in writing to Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Secretary Marie Stone.