



# Nashauonk Mittark™



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November 2017

DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

TAP

COMMUNITY

## Chairman's Column



Greetings Tribal Family,

Each month I open my column with three seemingly innocuous words: greetings tribal family. It's a conscious choice that I make to express how I feel about each and every one of you. We are family. And as a family we've gone through a lot over these past few weeks. We've made some pretty big adjustments to our operational budget and expense lines at our Community and Government Center - which needed to be done regardless of our bottom line. We've focused on efficiency and streamlining our processes without cutting services. These were all business decisions that we needed to make and will put us in a better position in the future.

With that being said, I want to take a moment to extend my highest regard to the staff that keeps our Community and Government Center running so well. Each one of these amazing individuals have shouldered a great deal of undue pressure based on circumstances beyond anyone's control. Their professionalism and focus have not gone unrecognized by me, our Tribal Council or our Tribal Administrator.

I was able to inform all of our staff just a few days ago that all MWT employees at our Community and Government Center will be secure in their positions at least until the end of the year. I realize this is not the full commitment that we would like, but it's a start and we will continue to work hard for our staff and our entire tribal family.

As we look ahead, we still have some difficult decisions that we need to make. Please know that these are not decisions that are made without consultation. That's why

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## Mashpee School Committee and Tribe Meet

**T**he Mashpee School Committee meeting on Wednesday evening, October 4, began with all assembled standing and holding hands as Jessie (Little Doe) Baird, vice chairwoman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council, said a prayer in the Wampanoag language, Wôpanâak. She recited the prayer again in English.

As is customary at the start of all school committee meetings, chairman Don D. Myers then asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. The location was a standing-room-only tribal council room at the Mashpee Wampanoag Community and Government Center on Great Neck Road South.

The October 4 meeting marked the first time the school committee has held its regular Wednesday meeting on sovereign Mashpee Wampanoag land.

The idea behind the change of venue from the Quashnet Elementary School library this week came from school committee member Nicole D. Bartlett and Patricia (Trish) Keli'inui, the tribe's public relations and communications manager, who aimed to promote a spirit of inclusiveness and partnership between the school district and the tribe.

Before the meeting, Superintendent Patricia M. DeBoer and a number of school



*Tia Pocknett shows Mashpee School Committee around the Language Immersion Preschool and Kindergarten: Mukayuhsak Weekuw*

administrators got the opportunity to tour the community center and to meet tribal government representatives.

As part of the meeting, Mashpee High School senior Celia Krefter, a member of the Student Advisory Council, updated the committee about student accomplishments and activities. She said she was proud to be a student ambassador and to have the chance to speak at the tribal center.

Tribal council chairman Cedric

(Continued on page 4)

## The 660 Project: Connecting Youth

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Historic Preservation Department (THPD) is pleased to announce a new project that is devoted to the 660 Young Adult Tribal members ages 18-30 that are almost always left out of tribal programs. How many of the 660 have you ever met in person? This project will hold a couple gatherings so you can meet each other; kind of like speed dating (without the romance) so you can at least check each other out in a no pressure space. After everyone is acquainted THPD wants to know what parts of our history and culture you're interested in learning more about. A professional graphic designer team will work with

a small group of five that you select to create a touch screen portable exhibit. This format will present the possibility of creating a sub-domain website where the 660 group can drive the audience from their home and school computers.

Expect a text when and where to meet up. If you didn't give your current cell number to enrollment text it to 774 327-0182 with your name. THPD also has a new blog and website that will be linked to the 660 Young Adults private Facebook page. This will keep our news fresh with live feeds of group gatherings for those that live too far away to meet up. So stay tuned!

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## Events Calendar

### New Events

**November 4 - 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**  
Soup Bash, MWTCGC

**November 11 - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
Veterans Powwow and "Our" Story Exhibit Opening, *Mashantucket Pequot Museum in CT*

**November 12 - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
General Body Meeting, MWTCGC

**November 18 - 11:00 a.m.**  
Native American Thanks Giving, *Old Indian Meeting House*

**November 25 - 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
Annual Fall Social, MWTCGC

**December 2 - 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**  
Opioid and Narcan Training, MWTCGC

**December 9 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
Christmas Craft Fair, MWTCGC

**December 10 - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
General Body Meeting, MWTCGC

### Weekly Events

**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

**Tuesdays - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**  
WAYK (Where Are Your Keys?), MWTCGC (starts Nov 7)

**Wednesdays - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**  
Tribal Health Yoga Classes with Yoga Neighborhood, MWTCGC

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

**Thursdays - 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
Recovery Meeting, *Old Indian Meeting House*

**Fridays - 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**  
Toddler Hour, *Wampanoag Museum*

**Fridays - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**  
Tribal Health Zumba with Shirley, MWTCGC

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

### Food Pantry Hours

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

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

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

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

Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

## Mason Hendricks Leads Team to Victory

**M**ason Hendricks and the Wareham Vikings took the South Coast Conference Football Championship in the first-ever crossover matchup between the Small champion (Wareham) and the Large champion (Somerset Berkeley.) Hendricks continuously sacked Somerset Berkeley's quarterback leaving him scrambling. Mason is the eldest son of Lawrence Hendricks and Jody Santagate of Wareham. He's the great grandson of Francis Cash Hendricks and the grandson of the late Lawrence Hendricks III.



## Youth Council Elect New Officers

**O**n Tuesday, September 26 the Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Council elected a new slate of officers to lead the group over the upcoming year. At the annual elections, which were held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center, tribal youth elected Chyla Hendrics, chairperson; Chenoa Peters, vice chairperson; Taylor Rose, co-secretary; Brianna Cheatham, co-secretary; Kobi Howerton, treasurer; Chayna Hendricks, female representative; and Ceasar Hendricks, male representative.

The newly elected officers were officially sworn into office during the Tribe's General Membership Meeting on Sunday, October 8.

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.

For more information please contact Youth Council Adviser Brian Weeden at [ProudMashWamp@yahoo.com](mailto:ProudMashWamp@yahoo.com).



## Toddler Hour at the Museum



Toddler Hour at the Museum is returning on October 13 and will continue each Friday through June 22, 2018. The weekly event for will be held Fridays from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum .

Join Miss Toodie and Miss Kitty for story time, and Wôpanâak songs and games. Toddler Hour is free of charge to all tribal home day care providers and tribal families.

For more information, please call (508) 477-0208 ext 143. Toddler Hour is offered by the MWT Education Department and the Language and Tribal Historic Preservation Departments.



## Chairman's Column *(continued)*

we've held several all staff meetings over the past few months to keep everyone informed of the issues, and potential changes that may be coming down the road. I felt this was and continues to be a crucial piece of the decision-making process.

The process is something that I think we cannot overstate or minimize its importance. It's ensured that we're not rushing to any judgments or simply cutting staff positions because it's a quick fix.

We've taken a more exhaustive and careful root to reducing our budget. We first met with each department head to review their budget line by line. We then took a look at our outside consultants to make cuts where appropriate. These initiatives resulted in a good amount of cost savings that we've been realizing for over a month. We then looked to our full time tribal council to voluntarily take cuts in their own salaries, which they accepted and may take further reductions as we continue with this process. With those steps completed we've returned to our operations budget to make a second round of cost-saving cuts to expense lines that have allowed us to avoid any downsizing at this time.

If we do reach the point where we have to ask staff to take reductions or their position is eliminated, please know we will make resources available to ensure they transition into good jobs in the surrounding towns. These transitions may not be immediate, but we'll be here to provide support and make connections with other agencies to assist. We truly care about our family and will make sure we all land securely on our feet.

We all know that we're in a challenging financial position. We've exhausted

a tremendous amount of resources to navigate a bureaucratic process that is easily the federal government's longest, most convoluted process ever developed. It's taken us over 40 years to reach this point, and we still had submissions and document reviews taking place on a daily basis through October. Thankfully our final response to the Department of Interior was completed a few days ago. It's a submission that many have referred to as the "best" historic submission we've authored to date.

I feel very good about the submission we've sent in. While I can't guarantee that the Department of Interior will accept the historic records in the same light that we have, I can tell you that it truly is the "best." We remain confident that our petition and litigation both remain on solid ground with the power of truth behind it. Our history is strong and not something that we believe can be contested.

Together we will get through this and we will ultimately come out stronger on the other side. We'll be a leaner, more efficient government that continues to serve the needs of our community while building a strong tribal economy. Even though I'm sure we'll succeed in the end, these past few months have weighed heavily on me. It keeps me up and drives me to work harder to move our nation forward. I will not rest until we realize our full potential.

Kutâputunumuw;



Chairman Cedric Cromwell  
Qaqemasq (Running Bear)

## Annual Fall Social To Be Held on November 25

**O**n Saturday, November 25 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 potluck social (please bring a dish of food to share) will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 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 [graham@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:graham@mwtribe-NSN.gov) or at (508) 645-8365



## Old Indian Meeting House Recovery Meetings

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Health and Human Services Department Substance Abuse Program has organized weekly recovery meetings for anyone seeking support. The recovery meetings are being held every Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Old Indian Meeting House located at 410 Meetinghouse Road in Mashpee.

If you have any questions please contact Gail Costa at (774) 228-3268. Stephanie and Gail are both licensed alcohol and drug

counselors in the Tribe's Substance Abuse Program.



## Tribe and School Committee Meet *(continued)*



Cromwell welcomed the more than 40 people gathered and said the meeting was a “historical moment” and “a step in the right direction toward unity.”

“It’s important that we continue to grow and live together,” he said.

Ms. Baird shared with the committee a historical sketch in the form of a written packet that introduced aspects of the tribe’s heritage, culture, language and history.

She hoped, she said, to give a sense of the tribe’s philosophy about the family structure as well as its historical struggles “to protect self-governance.”

“Until 1967, no non-Wampanoag person held any elected position in the town of Mashpee,” she said. “[We must] work on having conversations. None of us lives in a vacuum. We are a human community here in town, and we must support one another and our kids.”

Nitana Hicks Greendeer, the tribe’s director of education, shared a list of multiple successful collaborations between the school district and her team.

She noted the “lunch bunches” at Kenneth C. Coombs School and Quashnet School, organized with the school administrators and the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project, in which young tribal students have the chance to sing songs, learn Wôpanâak vocabulary and learn about various aspects of their culture.

One of the most important efforts, she said, was the launching this year of a Wôpanâak language class at Mashpee High School. The course is taught by Melanie Roderick and Ms. Hicks Greendeer.

Principal Mark L. Balestracci said that the school offers students a language credit for the course as they do for all other language courses.

“Our language was actually outlawed in the 1800s,” Ms. Baird said. “People living in Mashpee could be fined or jailed for

teaching Mashpee [Wampanoag language] in Mashpee. This is the first time in 200 years the language has been offered in a school setting. It’s extremely important for our children to see.”

Ms. Baird said the course would be a model for schools not only in Massachusetts but also around the country.

In addition, Ms. Hicks Greendeer said she hopes to see more opportunities for tribal educators to take part in teacher professional development programs, improved data sharing between the schools and the tribe, and an increased presence by Mashpee residents at school and tribe events.

During her report to the committee, Ms. DeBoer said that the school district currently has 148 students who identified as Native American, which is 9 percent of the total student population.

The district received a federal Indian Education grant of \$50,851 for this school year, most of which she said goes toward paying salaries for personnel at the three schools.

Ms. DeBoer said her team will work on a detailed plan to build on the many instances of collaboration between the schools and the tribe, including guest speakers from the tribe to the schools and history-themed field trips. She also asked the tribal council to consider appointing a single “go-to person” for communication between the schools and the tribe.

In her address to the group, Ms. Bartlett, who is the mother of two elementary school children, said she “wanted [her] kids to grow up in this community and appreciate how important and unique this community is in the whole world, not just in Massachusetts.”

Before the school committee took up other business, Ms. Keli’inui said she and others would investigate the potential of hosting a Mashpee High School basketball game at the tribe’s government and community center.

Mr. Myers said the meeting would not be the last joint meeting between the school committee and the tribe.

By Steven Withrow, *Mashpee Enterprise*



## Tribe and Town Form Education Team



In an effort to continue the forward process made at the October 4 town of Mashpee School Committee meeting that was held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center, tribal officials and representative from the school district formed a special team to discuss education related issues on a recurring basis.

The team consists of the following people from the Mashpee school district, Superintendent of Schools Patty DeBoer; Assistant Superintendent Hope Hanscom; Special Education Director Jaimie Curley; Mashpee High School Principal Mark Balestracci; Quashnet School MaryKate O’Brien; and Kenneth C. Coombs School Principal Paul LaBelle and the following from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Education Department Director Nitana Hicks Greendeer; Vice Chairwoman Jessie “little doe” Baird; Tribal Council Secretary Ann Marie Askew; Language Department Director Jennifer Weston; councilwoman Cheryl Frye-Cromwell; and Public Relations and Communications Manager Trish Keliinui. The team held their first meeting on Monday, October 30.



## Mashpee Tribal Council Adopts Indigenous Peoples Day to Replace Columbus Day

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council voted to officially change its holiday calendar, replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day. The change was formally adopted at a regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting in October.

The unanimously passed Tribal Council resolution establishes that "The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe shall recognize 'Indigenous Peoples Day' on the second Monday in October every calendar year."

"Be it further resolved, that the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe shall continue its efforts to promote the well-being and growth of all Indigenous communities and continue to protect the Indigenous homelands of the Wampanoag Nation," the resolution declares.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell said the resolution is not a repudiation of Italian American heritage but an affirmation and reclamation of Native America history.

"As the Tribe that first came into contact with the Pilgrims and whose modern-day

descendants govern sovereign tribal land in parts of Mashpee and Taunton, we are intimately familiar with, and have been tremendously impacted by, the legacy of Columbus. There's enough social space in modern day America to recognize the proud heritage of our Italian American brothers and sisters, while never forgetting America's First People," Chairman Cromwell said.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Native American Thanks Giving on November 18



Tribal citizens along with family and friends from the community are invited to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Native American Thanks Giving on Saturday, November 18. The annual event, which is coordinated by the Old Indian Meeting House Committee, will open at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Indian Meeting House with an opening ceremony and prayer.

In addition to family and friends at this year's ceremony, we will also have Autumn Rose Williams, 2017-2018 Miss Native American USA from the Shinnecock Nation. Please join us in welcoming and congratulating Autumn.

The annual event is organized to bring the community together and to provide everyone a much-needed pause from their daily routine to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for.

The celebration is open to anyone and everyone that would like to share. Tribal citizens are asked to wear their traditional regalia.

Following the ceremony there will be a reception at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. The reception will feature native food, crafts, traditional drumming and dancing.



## "Our" Story Exhibit to Roll Out New Chapter at Veterans Powwow in Connecticut

**A** new theme to be added to the "Our" Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History exhibit will feature the cultural richness of contemporary New England Natives. Powwow will debut at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center during the annual Veterans Day Powwow on Saturday, November 11.

"We are so excited to launch the Powwow theme of this exhibit during an actual powwow event honoring veterans at New England's premier museum of indigenous history," said exhibit producer Paula Peters. "This is a perfect opportunity to bring the exhibit up to date and show that "Our" Story doesn't begin and end in the 17th Century."

Powwow explores the traditions around gathering and giving thanks with a mix of interactive video, contemporary native art, and photos collected from the Mashpee and Aquinnah powwows held annually in July and September respectively.

"Our" Story, a traveling, multi-media exhibit featuring the history, culture and traditions of the Wampanoag, debuted in 2014 commemorating the quadracentennial anniversary of the kidnapping of 27 Wampanoag men, including Squanto, who were taken to be sold as slaves. The exhibit is part of the Signature Events and Programs of Plymouth



400, Inc., the organization planning the international 400th anniversary commemoration of the 1620 Mayflower voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony. The entire exhibit will be on display at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum throughout Native American Heritage Month and visitors are encouraged to share their thoughts on "Our" Story using the hashtag #OurStory.

"Our" Story was created to bring to light key legacies of America's earliest beginnings from the Wampanoag perspective, a voice largely silenced in the colonial narrative. The exhibit received widespread media attention since its debut for its honest and powerful approach to highlighting occurrences in indigenous history that are not commonly known

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## “Our” Story Exhibit Expands *(continued)*

yet vital to the founding of Plymouth Colony and the building of America. The exhibit’s first chapter, “Captured 1614” was launched in 2014 and tells a critical back story to colonization and the roots of the American holiday, Thanksgiving. The second chapter, “The Messenger Runner”, highlights the Wampanoag tribe’s traditional communication network and tribal territories predating the Pilgrim’s arrival. The third chapter “The Great Dying: Gods Will or Unfortunate Circumstance?” depicts the catastrophic plague that killed tens of thousands of Wampanoag between 1616 and 1619.

Plymouth 400 commissioned a Native design team to create “Our” Story to ensure that the exhibit was thoroughly representative of the history of New England’s indigenous peoples. The Indian Spiritual and Cultural Training Council Inc. and SmokeSignals Marketing and Communications conceptualized, researched, and produced “Our” Story, and members of the Mashpee Wampanoag and Aquinnah Wampanoag tribes portrayed historical figures for the exhibit. The creation of this exhibit aligns with Plymouth 400’s mis-

sion to create a commemoration that is historically accurate and culturally inclusive, as indigenous peoples have declined participation or faced misrepresentation and even omission from previous anniversary events.

“Perceptions from Plymouth’s earliest period became etched into the American story when President Lincoln used the iconic symbol of the Wampanoag people and English colonists feasting together in 1621 as a representation of cooperation as he proclaimed our national holiday, Thanksgiving,” said Michele Pecoraro, Executive Director of Plymouth 400. “Plymouth 400 is committed to creating a commemoration that is historically accurate, which means addressing realities of the story that don’t reflect the simplified and often inaccurate depictions of the First Thanksgiving. This exhibit is intended to create conversations around these crucial realities in our history in an informative and authentic way, honoring the contributions of both cultures and recognizing the complexities of their relationship.”

For more information on this exhibit, visit [www.plymouth400inc.org/OurStory](http://www.plymouth400inc.org/OurStory).

## Land Use Committee Seeking Members

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is looking for tribal members to serve on the newly-formed Land Planning and Use Committee. This committee’s duties will consist of land use planning and land acquisition recommendations. The committee will consist of nine tribal members who will serve in two-year staggered terms. If you are interested in serving on the Land Planning and Use Committee, please send a letter of interest along with your resume/CV to Francie Dottin, executive administrative assistant to the chairman, [francie.dottin@mwtribe-nsn.gov](mailto:francie.dottin@mwtribe-nsn.gov).

Tribal Council established a Land Planning and Use Committee in September, 2017. The primary function of the committee is to act in a formal land use advisory role to the Tribal Council through the presentation of recommendations to Tribal Council regarding the use of Tribal lands and properties that will protect our resources, promote tribal sovereignty, and protect and preserve ceremonial, cultural and historical properties. The committee’s specific duties will consist of land use planning and land acquisition recommendations; and the Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to Tribal Council through its Council representative for review, approval and implementation of practices and policies in the best interests of the Tribe.

## Mashpee Wampanoag Host State House Thanksgiving Reception

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will be hosting a Special Thanksgiving Unity Reception to be held November 13, 2017 inside the Great Hall of the State House in Boston.

As descendants of the indigenous Wampanoag who made first contact with the Pilgrims, it was our people who shared a harvest feast (the historical origin of the modern Thanksgiving story) and taught them how to survive through the winter, making the settlement of Plymouth Colony and eventually Massachusetts possible. While no one could have foreseen the magnitude of mourning that would follow in the centuries after first contact (hindsight is 20/20), it is not in our power to turn back the hands of time.

What is in our power is our ability to shape the future in positive ways. One small but important piece of that is to educate people about the true history of our people and the origins of Massachusetts. At this time of year, as non-Natives approach Thanksgiving and often wonder about what really happened, it provides us with the unique opportunity to tell our story – in all of its rich, beautiful complexity.

There are many lessons from our shared history for natives and non-Natives to feast on, not the least of which is the life

and times of our great Massasoit Osamequin, who signed the first peace treaty (really a mutual aid alliance) with the Pilgrims. It led to 50 years of peace. That spirit of mutual aid still has the power to inform a society today divided by hateful politics. It’s a reminder of what can be accomplished by people of different backgrounds and cultures coming together in the spirit of cooperation and peaceful co-existence.

That’s why the theme is unity: to remind the world that the only path to peace and prosperity is one that includes all people, most especially America’s first people.

We want this event to serve as a shining light in these divisive times; a celebration of our Native heritage and how it forms the basis of a common bond in the Commonwealth. We want to encourage everyone to recommit to an open dialogue and mutual alliance that began with our ancestors 400 years ago.

For this purpose, the event will take place in the Great Hall, which just so happens have a stained-glass window overlooking the hall that bears the likeness of Osamequin. We want this special occasion to be a highlight of Native American Awareness Month, inviting elected officials, community and religious leaders to join us.

## The 660 Project *(continued)*

Please see the below links to view these pages:

Wordpress: <https://mwthpd.wordpress.com/wampum/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Mashpee-Wampanoag-Tribal-Historic-Preservation-Department-THPD-1043796625723086/community/>

This project is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services



## Indian Education Offers New Programs

The following programs have been developed by the MWT Indian Education Office for students enrolled in the Barnstable, Falmouth, New Bedford, Sandwich, and Wareham Public School Districts. Schools in this district can choose to offer the following programs:

### Wampanoag Cultural Classroom Presentations K-12 (Open to whole school community)

Learn about the daily life of the Wampanoag in the 17th century, as well as their current lives and communities. Students will gain an understanding of the connection the Wampanoag and other Native People have to Mother Earth, their seasonal way of life and their respect for all living beings.

Wampanoag presenter will pass around reproduction artifacts of traditional life, such as animal furs, tools, and jewelry made from shell, stone, and bone.

Program aligns with Massachusetts History and Social Science Frameworks: 1.6, 1.8, 3.2, 4.11, 4.15, 5.6.

### Indian Ed after School Gr 1-6 (Native students only)

These weekly sessions unite Native American youth and assist them in developing skills and perspectives that result in an increased knowledge and sense of pride in their cultural identity. Activities include, storytelling, crafts, clay, music, and much more!

Pottery Workshop Gr 7-12 (Native students only)

This six-week program will introduce students to the origins of clay, and explore their creative abilities through clay. They will experiment a variety of hand building

techniques such as slab, pinch, and coil pots.

### Native American Film Series Gr 7-12 (Open to whole school community)

This series will include the documentaries We Still Live Here, which is about the Wampanoag Language Reclamation Project and how the language was lost as a result of colonialism and how it has been reclaimed; The Mashpee Nine, which is about nine men who were arrested in 1976 while camping and singing on their own land. The case became a landmark case in Native rights and religious expression. And the final documentary is as yet undecided but will be about the Standing Rock water protectors and their opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline last year on the Standing Rock reservation. Each screening will include a Q&A from either the filmmaker or a person with firsthand knowledge on the topic.

Program aligns with Massachusetts History and Social Science Frameworks: 1.6, 1.8, 3.2, 4.11, 4.15, 5.6.

### Native American Performance Arts Gr K-12 (Open to whole school community)

Assembly style program for school wide performances by Native American educators, artists and musicians.

## Tutors Available

There's no question that our kids are being challenged academically more than past generations were. Standardized tests, a new focus on STEM and language requirements are pushing our students to achieve greatness in the classroom. This can create a lot of stress, but there's no need for our youth to fall behind.

Tutors are available through the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department All you or your child need to do is ask for help by calling the MWT Education Department Admin Anne Foxx at (508) 477-0208 ext 151 or email [anne.foxx@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:anne.foxx@mwtribe-NSN.gov).

## Dental Clinic Prize Winner



Congratulations to Brooke Smith the Mashpee Wampanoag Family Dental Clinic September incentive prizewinner. 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.

## New Language Classes Being Offered

### **WAYK (Where Are Your Keys?)**

WAYK is an interactive language learning game. It involves speech, touch, and sight in combination with hand signs that assist with language memory. The approach is great for all levels of speakers including completely new speakers to advanced.

Time: Tuesday evenings at 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Class begins November 7th.

Instructor: Jessie Little Doe Baird

Pre-requisite: None. This class is open to all learners.

Location: Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center

### **Beginner's Class**

Beginner Workbook and bi-weekly immersion games and activities.

Time: Thursdays from 6:30 PM to 7:30PM. Class begins on October 26th.

Instructor: Tracy Kelley

Pre-requisite: None. This class is open to all level of speakers

Location: Contact instructor for location ([tracy.kelley@mwtribe-nsn.gov](mailto:tracy.kelley@mwtribe-nsn.gov))

## Family Caregiver Support Program to host a Caregivers Appreciation Day on November 14

The Health and Human Services Department would like to thank all of our current and past Caregivers that have participated in our Caregiver Support program for their selflessness and devotion in helping to ensure the quality and quantity of life to our loved ones as they are faced with some of the challenges of everyday living activities. Our program is designed to assist the caregiver with information on available services and resources, assistance in gaining access to these services, support groups, caregiver trainings and respite care/Caregiver Stipends.

### What is Respite Care?

Even though many families take great joy in providing care to their loved ones so that they can remain at home, the physi-

cal, emotion and financial consequence for the family caregiver can be overwhelming without some support, such as respite. Respite provides a break for the Primary family caregiver, which may prove to be beneficial to the health of the caregiver.

### What is a Caregiver?

A caregiver is an unpaid or paid person who helps another individual with impairment with his or her activities of daily living. Any person with health impairment might use a caregiving series to address their difficulties. Caregiving is most commonly used to address impairments related to old age, disability, a disease, or mental disorder.

If you're a caregiver and need assistance please contact Health Services Manager Kimberly Frye at (508) 477-0208 Ext. 103.

## Medicare's Open Enrollment Period is Oct 15 - Dec 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 will receive a notice from your Prescription Drug or Medicare Advantage (HMO, PPO) Plan in September. Make sure you read this notice - it will explain the changes (premiums, copays, tiers) to your plan for 2017.

During the Annual Open Enrollment (October 15, 2016 - December 7, 2017), you will have a chance to CHANGE your plan. This change takes effect January 1, 2018. Our Medicare Outreach Counselor 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).

Please see April Dugas at our weekly Title VI "Lunch and Learn" for free Medicare counseling or ~ Call Tribal Health at 508 477 0208 x166 to make an appointment now!

## Career Pathways for Tribal Youth

The Education Department and Youth Programs Department are pleased to announce an exciting new career pathway program that will be available to tribal youth between the ages of 14 and 18 years old. The Building Pathways for Tribal Youth Program is NYCP grant funded and will allow the Tribe to offer free career training to youth.

The program, which is scheduled to run 2017 - 2018, will include traditional hunting and fishing program, college prep, college visits and internships.

Internships will run 50 hours and provide students with a stipend of \$750. Internships will vary, but will be guided by the interests of the students.

Independent college visits with a parent/guardian will include airfare, hotel for two nights and per diem.

The college visit schedule includes the following:

- November 9-13: Haskell College, Kansas (with parent or guardian) (FULL)
- January 13: Merrimack College, North Andover, MA: tour, dinner, basketball/hockey game
- April Vacation: New Mexico Colleges (Institute of American Indian Arts, University of New Mexico)
- June: College Horizons at Brown University

During the February vacation there will be a host of events going on for tribal students at the Mashpee Wampanoag



*Tribal Youth at the Springfield College tour. The trip was made possible with support from the NYCP Building Pathways for Tribal Youth Grant.*

Tribe Community and Government Center. Events will include a college and career fair, a financial skills workshop, a basketball tournament and time management workshops. Additional details on these events with times will be announced in the near future.

Programs will run after school and/or on Saturdays with specific program for high school seniors in November and programs for high school juniors in March. For more information about the program or to register, please contact John Hanlon at [John.hanlon@mwtribe-nsn.gov](mailto:John.hanlon@mwtribe-nsn.gov) or at (508) 237-0041. You may also reach out to Tracy Kelley at (508) 477-0208 ext. 150 or at [tracy.kelley@mwtribe-nsn.gov](mailto:tracy.kelley@mwtribe-nsn.gov).

## Education Department Seeking to Hire Hunting and Fishing Instructors

Part of the Building Pathways for youth program will include hiring tribal citizens to provide instruction to our youth on traditional hunting and fishing. The program will run this fall, winter and spring. If you are interested in being hired to work on this outdoor program, please contact John Hanlon at [John.hanlon@mwtribe-nsn.gov](mailto:John.hanlon@mwtribe-nsn.gov) or at (508) 237-0041. Your experience hunting and fishing will be a valuable addition to this program. Please consider applying.



## Financial and Alternate Resources Available

**T**he Health and Human Services Department is here to support and improve the overall well being of individuals and families in our community. Part of that support system includes partnering with nonprofits and social service programs in the area that meet our goals. Below is a list of a few of those financial and social support services that may help.

You may also contact our Emergency Support Specialist Cassie Jackson at (508) 477-0208 ext. 142. Cassie is here to help you navigate the various programs available and ensure you receive the best support possible.

### Servicing all Cape Cod & The Islands

#### Organization

Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands \*\*

The Needy Fund – Housing, utilities, food, medical, transportation, moving, camp, childcare, holiday

American Red Cross – Emergency Disaster Relief

Salvation Army – Financial Hardships

Hands of Hope – Financial Hardships

Catholic Social Services – Housing, Utilities, access to public benefits

Housing Assistance Corporation – Housing Needs

St. Vincent DePaul (Barnstable) – Financial Hardships

St. Vincent DePaul (Yarmouth)

St. Vincent DePaul (Mashpee)

St. Vincent DePaul (Sandwich)

St. Vincent DePaul (Bourne)

St. Vincent DePaul (Cataumet)

St. Vincent DePaul (Falmouth)

St. Vincent DePaul (Dennis)

#### Phone

508-771-1727

508-778-5661

508-775-1540

508-775-0364

508-432-1312

508-771-6771

508-771-5400

508-775-3073

508-398-2248

508-477-7700

508-833-1555

508-759-7777

508-563-5537

508-548-1944

508-432-0650

### Lower Cape Only – (Brewster, Harwich, Chatham, P-Town, Orleans, Eastham)

Lower Cape Cod Council – electricity, heat, rent/mortgage payments, insurance, medical and prescription drug expenses, transportation

508-240-0694

#### Barnstable Only

Lombard Fund – Housing, utility, temporary shelter

508-862-4610

#### Falmouth Only

Falmouth Service Center – basic needs: rent, electric and/or heating bills

508-548-2794

#### Bristol/Plymouth County

PACE, Inc. \*\*

508-993-0033

Citizens for Citizens, Inc. \*\*

508- 679-0041

Turning Point (Wareham)

508-291-0535

#### Suffolk County

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. \*\*

617-357-6000

#### Norfolk County

Self Help, Inc. Community Action \*\*

508- 588-0447

#### Essex County

Action, Inc. \*\*

978-282-1000

#### Middlesex County

South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc. \*\*

508-620-2300

### Ways to Increase Your Income & Afford Basic Living Expenses

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe WIOA

508-477-0208 Ext. 170

Career Opportunities

508-771-5627

Job Corps

800-733-5627

Department of Transitional Assistance

877-382-2363

Social Security Administration

866-467-0440

\*\*Mass Cap Program Services: child development and care, education, training, health and safety, housing and shelter, and financial stability.

## Utility Service Announcement: Keep the Heat On

Are you having a hard time managing your utility bills? The Health and Human Services Department at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe wants to make sure you're aware that you may be eligible for winter protection. Winter protection ensures that utility companies will not terminate service that is heat related between November 15 and March 15 (The March 15 end-date is often extended to April 1 by the Department of Public Utilities).

Typically, if you receive the discount rate or LIHEAP, you will be eligible for protection from utilities being shut off during the winter months. In addition, you may be eligible to enroll in additional cost saving programs like budget billing and payment plans.

Also, if you or someone in your home is seriously ill; or you have an infant in the home under 12 months; or all adults in the home are age 65 or older and a minor resides in the home you are likely eligible for protection from your utilities being shut off.

For more information, visit the Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs at [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) and call your service provider and get protected. Ever-source Discount Rate: 1-800-592-2000. National Grid Discount Rate: 1-800-322-3223.

## Do You Have a Student Enrolled k-12?

The Indian Education Office is collecting Title VI 506 forms for all Native American students' grades K-12 enrolled in the Barnstable, Falmouth, New Bedford, Sandwich, and Wareham Public School districts. These forms are required by the Office of Indian Education to participate in services, and will be kept on file here at the Indian Education office. Please contact Kitty Hendricks-Miller at (508) 477-0208 ext 143 or at [Gertrude.Hendricks@mwtribe-nsn.gov](mailto:Gertrude.Hendricks@mwtribe-nsn.gov). Kutâputush!

## Fuel Assistance Applications Available

For many Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal households, energy cost place a severe and continuing stress on the family's budget. In some instances, the household is forced to make painful decisions regarding which bills to pay and which necessities to survive without. The Low Income Home Energy Assistant Program (LIHEAP) is designed to help eligible low-income households supplement part of their winter heating service bills.

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps low-income households with their home heating bills. Income eligibility is based on "Net Income" (after all deductions, including max of \$2,000 towards rent/mortgage, but except for 401K, IRA, and any other saving or retirement programs). A household deductible guide with income limits is included with the LIHEAP application.

In order to determine your eligibility

for the heating season, please contact Shakira Askew at (508) 477-0208 x159 or at [shakira.askew@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:shakira.askew@mwtribe-NSN.gov) for an application. It's very important that you complete the application in full and submit it with the following:

1. Proof of Citizenship Tribal ID, License, Mass Photo ID, (Green Card) for all 18yrs+
2. Complete application with signature and date
3. Proof of income Employment, Social Security/Disability, Unemployment, Pension fund, Self employment (1099) etc with current year to date showing for all in household 18yrs+
4. Proof of Residency for all listed on application Mortgage, Lease, Deed, (Pre/School Records for children)
5. Current primary heating bill/statement

**Who is Eligible?**

- Those who meet the State and/or Tribal Income Guidelines
- Elderly within the guidelines
- Veteran within the guidelines
- Family with child under five years old within the guidelines
- Unemployed and within guidelines
- Heat is not included within your rent and you meet the guidelines

For more information or to apply, please contact Shakira Askew at (508) 477-0208 x159 or at [shakira.askew@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:shakira.askew@mwtribe-NSN.gov).

## Powwow Committee Seeking Members

The Powwow Committee is looking for dedicated Tribal citizens to join the committee. Committee members are appointed for a two-year term and are integral in the planning and management of the annual Powwow. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please send a letter of interest to Francie Dottin, executive administrative assistant to the chairman, at [frances.dottin@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:frances.dottin@mwtribe-NSN.gov).

## 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 enable the Tribe to be self-sufficient and to provide economic support for its tribal citizens. If you are in-

terested 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, [francie.dottin@mwtribe-nsn.gov](mailto:francie.dottin@mwtribe-nsn.gov) and carbon copy [mwtcdc@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:mwtcdc@mwtribe-NSN.gov) by November 1, 2017.



MASHPEE WAMPANOAG  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## Open Seat on Election Committee

The Election Committee is looking for a dedicated tribal member to assist with the election process. Presently there is one seats open on the Election Committee. If you are interested in serving on the commit-

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

## Save the Date: 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow - July 6, 7 & 8, 2018



## Christmas Craft Fair to Benefit Alice on December 9

The Alice May Lopez Memorial Statue Fundraising Committee will be hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday, December 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. The annual event brings vendors together with holiday shoppers allowing people to find those special gifts you can only get from a local artist. All vendors are welcome to attend and display items for sale.

Vendor applications are due November 27 and may be picked up at the Community and Government Center front desk. You may also reserve your vendor space by sending notice to Carol Lopez at 139 Great Neck Road North, Mashpee, MA 02649.

The vendor fee is \$30 for an 8' table, \$60 for two 8' tables and \$75 for four 8' tables. The tables and chairs will be provided to all vendors, however, vendors will need to bring their own table cover.

All funds raised from the vendor fees will benefit the Alice May Lopez Statue Memorial 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

## Getting Your Home Ready for Winter

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Management Department wants you to be ready for the potential harshness of the winter as predicted for the months ahead. Below are some very important tips that will help keep you warm and safe this winter.

### Space Heater

- Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains, at least 3 feet away from the heater.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
- Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.

### Fireplace

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks jumping out.
- Do not burn paper in your fireplace.
- Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least 3 feet from your home.

### Wood Stove

- Make sure your wood stove is 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Do not burn paper in your wood stove.
- Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.

### Furnace

- Have your furnace inspected each year.
- Keep anything that can burn away from the furnace.

### Kerosene Heater

- Only use kerosene heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Refuel your cooled heater outside.

For more information or advice on winter preparedness, please contact Mashpee Wampanoag Emergency Management at; Emergency Management Director - Nelson Andrews Jr 508-477-5800 x 15 [nelson.andrews-jr@mwtribe-nsn.gov](mailto:nelson.andrews-jr@mwtribe-nsn.gov) or Emergency Preparedness Specialist - Allyssa Hathaway 508-477-5800 x 13 [allyssa.hathaway@mwtribe-nsn.gov](mailto:allyssa.hathaway@mwtribe-nsn.gov)

## From Carlton Pocknett: Honor One Another

**D**id you know that it is very good to share and give love to one another? Without these values this country wouldn't be the way it is now. That is why we are suffering from terrorist attacks, because basically all the cultures in this country have something good to give. Some say that is why this country is hated, because we have so many values and we have a good character.

We have so many good colleges and this makes people want to come over to our country and learn our ways of life from the professors in these schools. When you are growing you depend on your mother and father to teach you the difference between right and wrong. But they can only teach you so much.

I know it is hard to do the right thing when you are young. But you have to do the best that you can. You have to pull yourself up by the boot straps and learn what this country has to teach you. A lot of men and women have died for this country and our flag. We come from purple mountains and the great lakes. We have men of honor, courage, and wisdom.

That is why I love this country just as my ancestors did too. I live on the works of my ancestors and what they have laid down for me from many years ago. My mother told me to always accept a helping hand and if you have nothing good to say then don't say anything at all.

God is the biggest teacher and we are all in his social studies hall, because we are still in school and still learning together. No matter how old or young we are.

See, our old ways weren't working so we have to go back to our grass roots on what history has to teach us. United we stand, and divided we will fall. Honor One Another in life and in death.

By Carlton Pocknett, Student of Life  
October 19, 2017



## Making National Level Changes For All Tribes Across Indian Country



*Nelson Andrews Jr. providing report to USET Board of Directors*

During the 2017 USET annual meeting held in Cherokee North Carolina this October, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Management Director Nelson Andrews Jr. presented to the USET Board of Directors as Co-Chairman of the newly named Homeland Security and Emergency Services Committee. There are currently 26 Federally recognized tribes who represent through various committees of the United South and Eastern Tribes organization.

One of the main goals during these USET meetings is to work on significant changes that will have an impact for all Tribes across Indian Country; some of these changes are made through resolutions that will be presented to congress on behalf of the USET committees.

An important resolution was worked on by the USET Homeland Security and Emergency Services committee at this most recent meeting. The resolution that is being finalized will help to change the way that funding is streamed from the Department of Homeland Security to all Federally Recognized Tribes through grant programs and direct funding for Tribal Emergency Management Programs, this in hopes will bring the funding mechanisms between the Federal Government and Tribes equal to States.



Stay informed of Tribal updates and notices  
[facebook.com/mwtribe](https://facebook.com/mwtribe)

# COMMUNITY

**IMPORTANT:** Enroll Today to Receive News by Email by Sending an Email to [trish.keliinui@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:trish.keliinui@mwtribe-NSN.gov)

## Mittark Striving to Go Paperless in 2018

**H**ave you signed up to receive the Mittark and other news from the Tribe electronically? It's a faster and more efficient way to stay informed and it saves the Tribe money. Many organizations and other Tribes have already moved electronic and now our Tribe is gearing up to make the move to go primarily electronic in 2018. There are some exciting enhancements and developments coming down the road that will make it even more efficient for you to receive news by email. To gear up for this, we're asking all tribal members to ensure the Tribe has your preferred email address.

You can send the Tribe your email address by simply by sending an email to our PR and Communications Manager Trish Keliinui at [trish.keliinui@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:trish.keliinui@mwtribe-NSN.gov) and let her know you would like to be added to the Tribe's email list.

In addition to signing up to receive information electronically, you also have the ability to opt out of receiving hard copies of the Mittark prior to 2018 that are sent through traditional postal mail. By going completely

"electronic" with your communication you will be helping your Tribe save money and the environment...it's a win win. To opt out of receiving traditional mail, please include the email addresses of all tribal citizens that live in your household when emailing Trish. (Having a current email address for all Tribal Citizens in your home will ensure each person continues to receive news.)

Please, remember to send Trish an email at [trish.keliinui@mwtribe-NSN.gov](mailto:trish.keliinui@mwtribe-NSN.gov) to ensure we have your current email address. It's our goal to keep you and all other tribal members informed of the many important services and events that take place in our community.



## Opioid Overdose and Narcan Training

On Saturday, December 2 the Tribal Action Plan (TAP) along with the Tribal Coordinating Committee (TCC) and the Department of Human Services of Barnstable County will host a very important opioid education program. The 5-hour program, which will focus on recognizing an overdose and provide Narcan training, will be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center on Saturday, December 2 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The training will cover a wide range of opioid and narcan related topics. The agenda includes information on understanding opioids and the physiology and risk factors for opioid overdose along with the signs and symptoms. They will also discuss the impact fentanyl is having on those suffering from the disease of addiction and how to respond to an overdose.