



# Nashauonk Mittark™



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December 2013

DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY

## Chairman's Column



Dear Tribal Family,

We have much to celebrate during this holiday season! This month, we were a part of historic BIA hearings that took place in both Mashpee and Taunton for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Land Into Trust Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS). The DEIS is the most time consuming and arduous aspect of the Land Into Trust process.

Our Tribe is in a great place with Land Into Trust (LIT) process. We have never been this far along positively in the Land Into Trust process for our people. There have been many long days, very late nights, working around the clock and sacrificing our personal and family lives to keep the progress and forward movement for our people in the spirit of Self Sufficiency, Self Determination and Tribal Sovereignty.

We are Indian People. We are Mashpee Wampanoag People and We are Sovereign!

I give praise to all of the supporters for Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Land Into Trust successful completion. I am also praying for the folks internally and externally that actively works towards defeating Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Land Into Trust and ultimately set our Tribe backwards. Let us all pray for them, as we will not let evil prevail.

Thank you to all of those who attended the hearings. History is in the

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## Public Hearings Held December 2 and 3

**T**he Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) held a public hearing on December 2 in Mashpee and on December 3 in Taunton to gain feedback on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Tribe's land-in-trust application. The DEIS was approved by the US Department of Interior in October.

Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell saw the hearings as another positive step for the Tribe and an opportunity to hear comments from all sides.

"The hearings are another opportunity for people to provide comments about the tribe's proposed destination resort casino in Taunton. We are excited at the outpouring of support from residents throughout South-eastern Massachusetts for Project First Light," said Mashpee Wampanoag Chairman Cedric Cromwell. "Some local officials in neighboring communities and officials at the regional planning agencies have raised some questions that we will address. We look forward to doing so once the public comment period ends and everyone has been given a chance to be heard."



The Draft Environment Review Study is available for review at Tribal Headquarters at 483 Great Neck Road South, at the Mashpee Public Library or online at [www.mwteis.com](http://www.mwteis.com). The deadline to submit comments is January 17, 2014.

## Language Program Marks 20 Years

The Wôpanâak Language Reclamation (WLRP), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization co-founded by the Aquinnah and Mashpee Wampanoag Tribes, held a half-day twentieth anniversary celebration Language Center in Mashpee on Friday, November 8th. WLRP provides translations, year-round community language classes, and youth and family language camps for



Tribal household members from the Assonet Band, Aquinnah Tribe, Herring Pond Tribe, and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. Language project staffers also work part-time for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Language Department established in 2009 by Tribal Council Ordinance. The project has served over 500 tribal citizens-including 70 percent from Mashpee-since its inception in 1993, and elects directors to its board for two-year terms to provide budget and planning oversight for the language reclamation efforts that also includes ongoing dictionary, phrasebook, and workbook development.

"We had a wonderful turnout among language students, Mashpee Tribal Council members, WLRP board members, charter school trustees, Cape media organizations,

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Events Calendar

### New Events

**January 12 - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
General Body Meeting,  
*Mashpee High School*

**February 9**  
Tribal Council Elections  
*Mashpee High School*

**March 22**  
Wampanoag Ball,  
*Sea Crest Beach Hotel*

### Weekly Events

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

**Monthly - 7:00 p.m.**  
Chiefs Circle, *Old Indian Meeting House*  
*It is held the first Tuesday of the month.*

**Monthly - 6:00 p.m.**  
Public Safety Commission  
*Madaket Place, A4 Conference Room*  
*It is held the third Tuesday of the month.*

### Language Classes

Visit [WLRP.org](http://WLRP.org) or call  
(508) 419-6281 for event details and  
upcoming language classes.

## Announcements

- » Results of the recent Elders Council elections are; Cecelia Tobey Gomes, President; Wayne Jackson, Vice President; Edith Newcomb Rose, Secretary; and LaVerne Jackson, Treasurer. Other Council members include: Steve Helme, Carolyn Turner, Sharon Tobey Kennedy, Cherilyn Peters and Anne Foxx.
- » Tribal members who would like to be included on the Tribal "eBlast" messaging system, please forward your contact information to Councilwoman Trish Keliinui at [TKeliinui@mwtribe.com](mailto:TKeliinui@mwtribe.com) or call her at (774) 316-0305.
- » The Election Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with the process for the February 9, 2014 election. Please contact the Election Committee by January 26<sup>th</sup> at (774) 238-2129 to sign up.

## Cheryl Frye-Cromwell Receives National Award

**C**heryl Frye-Cromwell, Government Health Liason for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, was honored on November 18 by the Indian Health Services (IHS), a division of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, for her "leadership, support and partnership in support of Direct Service Tribes."

Cheryl received the IHS Director's Special Recognition Tribal Leadership/Partnership Award in Washington, DC. The IHS awards were created to honor those who partner with IHS and who have demonstrated extraordinary achievements in public health leadership, federal leadership, and organizational leadership.

"The award reflects my sincere appreciation to you for your leadership, support and partnership in support of Direct Service Tribes," Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Director of the federal Indian Health Services.

"I'm very honored to be recognized at this level," said Cheryl. "It shows that I'm doing what I need to be doing as an elected official for my tribe."

A long-time leader both locally and



nationally, Cheryl was elected to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council in 2004 and has since focused on improving the Tribe's health services. Since the Mashpee Wampanoag's Federal Recognition in 2007, she has worked on behalf of the Tribe as the Tribal Liaison to the IHS and other federal, state and local agencies, with a goal to build the capacity and resources for health care services for the Tribe. In 2010, Cheryl was appointed to the Direct Service Tribe's Advisory Committee (DSTAC) to represent the Nashville Area Direct Service Tribes, where she has been elevated to the position of vice-chair and been a strong advocate for all initiatives and priorities of the committee.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Ground Penetrating Radar at OIMH

Only days before the annual Native American Thanksgiving Day at the Old Indian Meeting House the Tribal Historic Preservation Department was fortunate enough to have ground penetrating radar (GPR) done on two of the larger clearings in the cemetery. Doria Kutrubes from the geophysical laboratory in Waltham and Elizabeth Perry from the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe shared their equipment



and expertise at no charge to the Tribe for this service. Doria gave an on-site training of the GPR equipment to members of the Roads and Ground Department Jason Steiding, Rick Hendricks, Kevin Hicks, along with Tribal Historic Preservation Department Ramona Peters and Marcus



Hendricks. The goal was to discover if any un-marked graves are located in the cleared parts of our cemetery. After two days of scanning the areas east of the building starting at the white fence and south near the hand pump, we found perhaps as many as 35 unmarked graves. It's sad to report that graves were also detected under the road. The actual count of un-marked burials and location on a map will be available to us shortly. More scanning of the rest of our cemetery will be done at another time





## New Tribal Administrator Appointed

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe recently hired Dr. James Davis Jr., to serve as their Tribal Administrator. Dr. Davis comes to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe with a wealth of education. He is a graduate from the University of Arizona at Tucson, where he earned his doctorate degree, which specializes in Political Science and American Indian Studies. In addition, Dr. Davis holds a Master of Arts degree from Northern Arizona University (NAU) in the areas of Political Science and Public Administration. His undergraduate degree is from NAU, with a major in Political Science and a minor in History. While in school, Dr. Davis served as a graduate assistant at the University's Political Science Department, was active with Pi Sigma Alpha Honorary, the National American Indian Honor Society, and was recipient of the University of Arizona Channing Scholarship, University of Arizona Minority Graduate Fellowship, and nominee of the University of Arizona Centennial Award.



His most recent work experience is with Owens Valley Career Development Center of Bishop, California. In addition, he worked with the Navajo Nation as a Legislative Advisor to the Navajo Council and served as a political appointee to the Office of the Speaker. His parents are James and Julia Davis of Flagstaff, Arizona. He is also the grandson of the late Navajo Nation Council delegate Roger Davis and Grace Davis of Window Rock, Arizona.

Dr. Davis has expressed great optimism in helping the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe continue their path of tribal development.

## Chairman's Column *(continued)*

making and we are moving forward together!

I would also like to point out another significant achievement over the past month: Councilwoman Cheryl Frye-Cromwell received the National Partnership and Leadership Award from Indian Health Services. Cheryl received this award for her leadership and dedication in advancing the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Health Care services and delivery. I congratulate Cheryl on her hard work and strong leadership to benefit our Tribal nation!

Please enjoy the holiday season and share and be thankful for all the Creator has blessed us with. Enjoy the good food, good friends and spend some quality time with family. I will see you all soon. Happy Holidays!

Kutâputunumuw;

Cedric Cromwell, Qaqemasq  
*(Running Bear)*



Councilwoman Cheryl Frye-Cromwell, Vice Chairwoman Jessie "little doe" Baird, Secretary Marie Stone, Councilwoman Yvonne Avant, Councilman Charles Foster, Chief Vernon "Silent Drum" Lopez, Chairman Cedric Cromwell, Councilwoman Trish Keliinui and Governor Deval Patrick, seated, at the tribal-state compact signing ceremony at the State House on November 15.

## Daughters of the American Revolution Scholarship Winner

Please join us in congratulating Tribal Youth Council member and 2012-13 Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow Princess Keturah Peters, as she has won one of the Daughters of the American Revolution Scholarships!

Earlier in the school year, Keturah was chosen by her peers and faculty at Mashpee High School where she is a senior, to receive the DAR Citizenship award, which then made her eligible to apply for the scholarship.

Keturah is the daughter of Kristine Foster and Randy Peters, III and granddaughter of Joanne Frye as well as Randolph Peters, Jr.

The DAR Good Citizens program and scholarship contest is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. The program is open to all senior class students enrolled in accredited public



or private secondary schools. United States citizenship is not required.

The procedure for selecting a DAR Good Citizen is for the school faculty and students to select one senior who has demonstrated, to an outstanding degree, the qualities of a good citizen: dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. Only

one student per year may be honored as a school's DAR Good Citizen. This student is then eligible, if he/she wishes, to enter the DAR Good Citizens scholarship contest. Program and essay contest materials are provided to a participating school by a local DAR chapter.

DAR Good Citizens who enter the scholarship contest are eligible for the awards beyond the chapter level. Each state winner receives a monetary award and a special state DAR Good Citizens pin and certificate. The national winner will be invited to Washington, D.C. to attend DAR Continental Congress and will be awarded a college scholarship. Each of the eight national division winners will also receive a cash award.

Nation Building at its Best!!

## National Award *(continued)*

Cheryl played an instrumental role in implementing health care services for her Tribal Members by opening a Direct Service Tribes Health Clinic in 2011 as well as a Dental Clinic opening in August of 2013. Beginning in 2010, she was appointed to U.S. HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC), the first tribal advisory committee established. In this role she works with other tribal leaders who are charged to advocate and advise the secretary of the barriers in healthcare/human services as indigenous people. Cheryl has recently met with the IHS Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee in Washington to initiate a meeting among the DSTAC and the TSGAC.

Earlier in November, Cheryl and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe hosted IHS Director Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, and Tribal



leaders from 10 regions across the country, for the Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee (DSTAC) national conference and quarterly meeting on the topic of Indian Health Services, held at the Sea Crest Hotel in Falmouth.

In the past five years, Cheryl has received recognition awards from Area Director for Volunteer Service and the Tribal/Urban Leader Award.

## Chairman on MSNBC



On Thursday, November 28th Chairman Cromwell appeared on the MSNBC network on a nationally televised live interview to discuss the true meaning of Thanks Giving to the Mashpee Wampanoag.

Please visit the link below to view the interview.

[www.msnbc.com/msnbc/watch/national-day-of-mourning-on-thanksgiving-77035587725](http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/watch/national-day-of-mourning-on-thanksgiving-77035587725)

## Vice Chairwoman Comments for BIA Public Hearing



*The statement below was an opportunity and quite literally the last chance before our initial land into trust taking that our community will ever again be in the position to directly address the BIA regarding the*

*Land in Trust Process. This process began during the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The comment period commenced the week of oral statements and continues for 45 days. This statement was aimed at dealing with the types of comments, including written comments, we received during and after the first Environment Impact Statement (EIS) hearings regarding land in Mashpee and Taunton in June of 2012. The comments also address our historic tie to the land (a requirement) and our treatment of the environment in both Taunton and Mashpee (also a requirement). ~ Jessie "little doe" Baird*

Jessie little doe baird Vice Chairwoman  
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe  
December 1, 2013

Comments for BIA DEIS hearing in  
Mashpee, MA and December 2, 2013 in  
Taunton, MA

Wunee Nuhkan Musunune8ak,  
kah nutayushkôyânutam nuqunupeepush-  
qanun Nutus8ees jessie queneeqâees baird.  
Neen sôkushq wutâ Mâseepee Wôpanây  
Chupan8ôk. Nutay naneeswee âhqunaha-

nut kah Mâseepeeut kah nuwtômâs Mâsee-  
peeut. Kumôwunutyâmun keehkut8kônât  
Numeenawutahkeemôwuneeâmun. Y8 ah-  
kee n8chee Cape Anne, âhqanee Merrimack  
seep8ut un sôwanayuw Graftonut, un  
Blackstone Seep8ut, pachee Narragansett  
p8tapâqut. Wamee y8sh ahkeesh wuchee  
napô nees mutunôk katum8ash numusu-  
nune8ak uwachônumuwôwunash.

Good Evening Folks, and please excuse me for my turned back. My name is jessie little doe baird. I am the Vice Chairwoman for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. I live in both Aquinnah and Mashpee. My blood and bones come from both of these places and I am on the Mashpee tribal roll, as were all of the women that came before me.

We gather together tonight to discuss lands within the Wampanoag Nation traditional territory. This territory begins at Cape Anne, follows along the Merrimack River to Grafton, MA then south to Narragansett Bay. All of these lands, for 12,000 years, have my People occupied and cared for.

Tonight is the second of two days of historic significance for my People. We come to gather comment because the Bureau of Indian Affairs will place some of our Lands within this territory, in trust.

Because the BIA will do this, you may hear all manner of comments during this gathering. You may hear that we

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Open Enrollment

The open enrollment period for Commonwealth Care members to re-apply for coverage has been extended. Members who receive coverage prior to re-applying will still have to pay their premiums in full and on time. You have until March 31, 2014 to re-apply and enroll in a plan that starts April 1, 2014. We hope this will give you a better opportunity to explore the new plan choices and new ways to get help paying for insurance that are available to you through the Health Insurance Marketplace. You can learn more about these options by visiting the Health Insurance Marketplace at [www.MAhealthconnector.org](http://www.MAhealthconnector.org).

For answers regarding your health insurance coverage please contact Wendy Pocknett or Kimberly Frye in the Tribal Health Office at (508) 477-6912.





## Two Open Positions

The Natural Resources Department is looking to fill two open positions. For more information, or to express interest, contact Tribal Administration Executive Assistant, Marita Scott at MScott@mwtribe.com, or NRD Director, Quan Tobey at QTobey@mwtribe.com.

**Water Resources Technician** to perform field and laboratory operation to assist in implementing the existing surface water monitoring programs. This is a full-time opportunity for the months of February through December.

**Office Assistant** to provide administrative and clerical support to ensure the efficient operation of the Mashpee Wampanoag Natural Resources Department. This is a part time opportunity of 20-hours per week.

## Members Travel to Peace Pagoda



On Sunday, October 6th members of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe traveled to the Peace Pagoda in Leverett, MA to attend the unveiling of a new monument honoring native people.

Members of the Lady Hawk Singers; Tanya Rezendes, Evelyn Fermino, Joanne Peters and Jodi Newcomb blessed us with their singing. It was an exciting moment when Dennis Banks, Co-Founder of the American Indian Movement, joined the Lady Hawk Singers.

Others who attended the ceremony were Marlene Lopez, Anne Foxx, Victoria Oakes, Mother Bear, Jim Peters and Sonia Little.

## Vice Chairwoman BIA Comments *(continued)*

ought to be treated the same as those who have no aboriginal claim to this territory, simply because their families arrived to this territory unannounced and have stayed here. You may hear from groups of people claiming to be this Wampanoag tribe and that Wampanoag tribe that will only be found referenced in any modern times since the passage of the Indian Gaming and Regulatory Act. You may hear from the xenophobes, the skinheads, the NIMBY's, the folks who were put off of reservation lands when their leases ended and so formed a group to end all Indian rights and probably every other hate group East of the Mississippi with every specious argument known to every single tribe that has followed this process since its inception in 1934.

You will also hear from the allies of the Mashpee Wampanoag. You may hear from those who have arrived from Europe occupied this land with their families for the past 400 years and have done so in a fair and respectful way and who wish only justice for my People. The one thing that I want to make clear, and the only thing that really matters to us as Mashpee Wampanoag is this; Through all of the ages, Mashpee has remained and we are still here on our Land and that we, the caretakers of this land and will remain so for all time. Assisting us in placing the Land under our feet there in a protected way, means everything to us.

Through the times of peace and plenty we were here. Before the time of the coming of the ships and the English we were here. And when the English came, and all of the other Europeans came, we were here and we remained here.

We remained through the great sickness of 1616 that wiped out tens of thousands in our Wampanoag Nation. When the Mayflower came to our territory and its passengers occupied our Lands, we remained here. When our lands were parceled out among them and between them, we protested that we wanted justice and our Lands and our laws and rights respected and followed. These petitions fell largely on deaf ears in the 1600s and yet, we remained.

When our backs were pushed to the wall in the face of our lands appropriated and our children taken into indentured servitude and when we could no longer be left in peace in our homeland here, some of us went to war in 1675 alongside Metacom, our Massasoit. This war is the bloodiest ever to be fought in North America. Through this war, Mashpee remained while many of our sister tribes fell victim and lost their People and were pushed from their immediate Lands.

Two of the Chiefs involved in this war were Weetumuw and her sister Awashonks. Both of these Chiefs lived in

the larger Pahkanahkut area. Awashonks in Pocasset and Weetumuw near Sowams. Weetumuw, the wife of King Philip, took her men into battle while her sister Awashonks, the widow of King Philip's bother Wamsutta, whose People did not want to go into battle, brought her People to neutral territory within the Wampanoag Nation to remain with the Sandwich Indians for the duration of the war.

Weetumuw was captured crossing the Taunton River at Weeshqabut. All of her wampum was removed from her body. She was stripped naked. She was dragged to Taunton Green where she was decapitated by the English and her head was hung there on a pike for 20 years. Her husband Metacom's head was placed on a pike in Plymouth. Her sister Awashonks returned home to Pocasset after this war only to find that her Lands were given away to Indians from various tribes and Nations that had fought on the side of the English.

Some of her people remained near Weeshqabut and the rest returned to the Sandwich Indians. Those Sandwich Indians were also known then as the Mashapoag Indians and the Marshpee Indians, and today. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. We are a People directly tied to both Mashpee and Taunton, through our blood. The Pocknett family name bears witness to our People being of the larger Pahkanahkut area. We still remain through all of this. When our children were taken away from us and sent to Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania during the 1930s, we still remained. When the court told us in the 1970s that we had become extinct and no longer exist, we still remained and held fast to our territory. And today when we hunt and fish and are ticketed and beaten for exercising our aboriginal rights, we still remain.

We, Mashpee, shall remain for all ages to come. We will never forsake our territory or our Lands, or our rights. We will thrive when all around us fall in our wake because we are created from this ground. We are this ground. We are the Land and we will use every tool that we can to grow our Nation. And as long as we keep our responsibility to Creation to remain on our territory, we shall have the protection of Creation as long as Mashpee Wampanoag breathe. By any means necessary, we will remain on this Land.

I now welcome you all here to Wampanoag territory and on behalf of my People, we yield both our ears and our minds to what others have to say and we look forward to learning.

Unâch

## Planning Started for a New Tribal Treatment Center

**P**lanning for the Tribal Treatment Center has begun. The team has submitted a Tribal Coordinating Committee Resolution to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA). This resolution outlines the tribe's commitment to the principles and process of designing and implementing a community treatment center and curriculum.

Following the acceptance of the resolution by SAMHSA is our mission statement and supporting vision:

**Mission:** To lift each other up; our Brothers and Sisters and hold each other on high through our journey to sobriety and a clean spirit and mind. This is our mission.

**Supporting Vision:** Our mission lives in a sacred vision. The sacred vision lives within and guides each of us, to a place of sacred healing; healing of our trauma and disease through Respect and Love. These two...Respect and Love are the energies that made the first Wampanoag man and woman. These two, Respect and Love make room for understanding, compassion, forgiveness, kindness, and service to self and others. Through all of these things, we will provide for each other a traditional, loving place to become free of the disease that is unhealthy and unclean.

The next step will be assignment of a regional representative that will provide



technical assistance and will work with the TCC and the Tribal Action Plan Project Manager. The TAP Manager will guide the community through the entire process of opening a healing treatment center from treatment modality planning to funding and finally facility and staff licensing.

The Pawôkamûq Treatment Center is seeking participants. We need committed individuals to assist in the design of our center to ensure that we are adhering to the Mashpee principles of Respect and ways of communicating and to ensure that

Mashpee culture is the guiding principle in the formation of our treatment mode. We are seeking Youth ages 18 and older as well as Elders, community citizens fighting the disease of addiction, Medicine Carriers, and any community member interested in working earnestly toward the design of this center. Please contact Katie Greene at [kgreene@mwtribe.com](mailto:kgreene@mwtribe.com) express interest to serve.

## Chiefs Circle



## My Life...My Health

Do you have high blood pressure, heart disease, depression, arthritis, osteoporosis, diabetes, asthma, substance abuse addiction, or any other chronic condition?

Do you have a loved one who has a chronic condition?

Are you interested in learning how to live a healthier life with less stress, less pain, and more wellness?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should consider taking My Life...My Health. This is a 6-week workshop developed by Stanford University and put on for tribal members by the Indian Health Service Unit.

The workshop will be held on Thursday evenings from 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. beginning February 6, 2014 at the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit located at 483B Great Neck Road, Mashpee, MA. The next workshop starts soon and space is limited!

Dinner will be provided as part of the workshop. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit at (508) 477-6967 today.



The tribal Chief's Circle has embraced Marcus Hendricks (Indian name "Nipmuc") as a new member of Chief Silent Drum's circle of advisors. As a member of Chief's Circle Marcus will assist the Chief in preserving the Mashpee Wampanoag cultural integrity. He joins members Earl Cash Jr. (Soaring Eagle), Ramona L. Peters (Nosapocket) Anne Foxx (Smiling Dove), Mark Lopez (Flying Crane), Marlene Lopez (Waantameesqa), and Patricia Weeden (Cammetah). Each member of the circle keeps the Chief informed as his eyes and ears among the tribal community and lands. The Chief's Circle meets on the first Tuesday evening 6 PM of each month at the Old Indian Meeting House. Tribal members are welcome to come to the Circle with their thoughts, feelings, ideas, or concerns.



## Language Program Turns 20 *(continued)*

and folks from throughout New England, said Charter Coordinator Jennifer Weston who also manages the Tribal Language Department staff of six language apprentices, and language/curriculum specialists.

“Our language apprentices work every morning on improving their proficiency in Wôpanâak, and then spend afternoons researching state and common core curriculum standards and developing detailed lesson plans for the nine subject areas that will be taught in the language immersion charter

“They are also preparing to be the future teachers in the school so this was a great opportunity for them to talk about their work and share specific lesson plans for developing student competencies in Wôpanâak and English literacy and grammar, art, science, math, etc.” Weston said the WLRP board and charter school trustees have not yet settled on a location for the charter school since they are searching for a facility that will accommodate additional grade levels up to middle school.

The Tribal Language Center, currently

Native students anything of significance about their Tribal history, culture, and language. We want the best for our children, and this school is going to put them on a positive track,” she said, reflecting on how far the project has come in the twenty years since Aquinnah Wampanoag elder Helen Manning helped her co-found the language reclamation planning committee.

“The Wampanoag communities have made all this growth possible for our language, and it’s amazing to see how far we’ve come together. I’m just so grateful,” said Baird.

More information about the charter school, language class schedules, and media coverage can be found at WLRP’s website at [wlrp.org](http://wlrp.org)



school we plan to open for Kindergartners and first graders in August 2015,” said Weston. Wampanoag Tribal Government Center where more classroom space will be available for community members early in the New Year. Currently, the Language Center’s one classroom is in use Tuesday through Thursday evenings for language classes for elders and different levels of language abilities. Tracy Kelley, Language Specialist and future immersion schoolteacher has been offering an elders-only language class for the first time this fall, and enjoyed talking to community members about her efforts to write curriculum and reach more community members. “This is the first time we’ve offered a class for a single age group since most of our classes have been aimed at families, but we really wanted to respond to requests from elders for a class just for them where they can take their time with our grammar workbooks, and learn some basic conversational terms that apply to their lives. It’s been great to see their enthusiasm and commitment this fall, and we’ll definitely offer more elders language classes soon,” said Kelley.

Tia Pocknett, Language Apprentice, is looking forward to developing a “Mommy/Daddy & Me” bi-weekly language class for the New Year as well. “I want to give parents with young children, maybe 18 months to three years of age, the chance to develop daily language routine they can use with their little ones-especially since we hope that some of these kids will be our future charter school students,” she said.

Curriculum Specialist Nitana Hicks

located at 800 Falmouth Rd. in Summerfield Park will be relocating to the new Mashpee who’s been teaching a weekly class at Boston College where she’s finishing her Ph.D. to become the charter school’s future principal, said she’s excited about offering classes in Mashpee soon, since she’s taken her current group of students in Boston through most of the available language grammar workbooks over the past several years. “I want to offer some advanced classes in Mashpee for those students who’ve been working their way through the beginner, noun possession, transitive inanimate, and other intermediate classes while I’ve been teaching in Boston,” she said. Hicks also teaches a weekly grammar class to the project’s language apprentices, and as Curriculum Specialist is guiding and reviewing the more than 3,800 lesson plans in-development to ensure they meet all state-mandated curriculum standards.

“I feel I’ve got the best team in the world here,” said Mashpee Wampanoag Vice-Chairwoman Jessie Little Doe Baird. “We’re going to be able to offer Mashpee’s and other Wampanoag communities’ children a world class education in their own Native language, and their bilingual abilities will empower our youth to be future leaders who are grounded from early childhood in their traditional Tribal values. Our Wôpanâak language is the key to understanding our ancestors’ beliefs and their deep connection to our homeland, and we’ve seen in other Tribal communities that language schools help inoculate kids against social problems and the temptation to drop out because public schools often don’t teach

## Bids Being Accepted for Snow Removal



The Mashpee Wampanoag Public Works Department, in conjunction with Emergency Preparedness, is currently soliciting bids for snow removal services for the 2013-2014 seasons. The job entails plowing and shoveling for approximately fifty elder Tribal Members in Mashpee, Falmouth and Sandwich. Responsibilities include: plowing driveways, de-icing, and shoveling steps, walkways and mailboxes. For more information, please contact Jason Steiding at [jsteiding@mwtribe.com](mailto:jsteiding@mwtribe.com), or (508) 477-0208 ext 204. Applicants must possess a valid driver’s license, and carry liability and workman’s compensation insurance.



Little Miss Wampanoag at the Youth Sobriety Powwow



**Nashauonk  
Mittark™**

483 Great Neck Road South  
Mashpee, MA 02649

# Revised Edition

# COMMUNITY



## The SBA Advantage

**T**his workshop will help you gain a better understanding of the various SBA programs and services that are available to prospective or current entrepreneurs who need assistance in starting or expanding their businesses. General information will be provided on the following programs and services:

- » SCORE – Counselors to America’s Small Business
- » MSBDC – Mass. Small Business Development Centers
- » BIC’s - Business Resource Centers
- » SBA Guaranty Loan Programs: 7(a), Micro Loans, Patriot & SBA Express Loans & 504 – Project Loan Development
- » Government Contracting Opportunities: 8(a) business Development, HUBZones (Historically Underutilized Business Zones), Small Disadvantaged Business, and Surety Bonding (when applicable – 2 years in business experience required)
- » Disaster Assistance

The SBA workshops will be held at Career Works, 34 School St., Brockton, MA from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following Wednesdays:

**January 15**  
**February 19**  
**March 19**  
**April 16**  
**May 21**  
**June 18**

**July 16**  
**August 20**  
**September 17**  
**October 15**  
**November 19**  
**December 17**

For more information or to reserve a space at any of the workshops, please call (508) 513-3400.

**U.S. Small Business Administration**



**Your Small Business Resource**

## Date Set for Ball

# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Ball

Save the date for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Ball on Saturday, March 22. Once again the annual ball will be held at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel at 350 Quaker Road, Old Silver Beach in North Falmouth. The theme of this year’s ball is “Celebrating Our New Beginning.”

Additional information about the event, tickets and reservations will be coming soon!