



# Nashauonk Mittark™



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February 2016

DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY

## Chairman's Column



Dear Tribal Family,

As we write a new chapter in our history, January 11, 2016 will go down as the most significant day in our struggle to re-establish sovereignty.

On that day, our nation was literally born-again and for the first time we raised the flag of our Tribal Nation over our Sovereign Land!

We marked the occasion days after we were notified that the United States government had fulfilled its obligation and declared our land in Mashpee & Taunton our "initial reservation."

As I noted before our own veterans raised our Tribal flag, we didn't get to that moment by our own efforts alone. We have arrived not just due to the work of this current administration but also because of the strength and sacrifice of many who have passed on.

Our flag now flies over land as a symbol of our sovereignty. It declares that the People of the First Light are not merely tribe "members." We are all tribal Citizens - of the Mashpee Wampanoag Nation!

It says: "We are here. And here we shall remain."

Yet, even as we celebrate this historic milestone, we cannot stop here. Now, that we've been recognized as a modern-state, it requires that we exercise our sovereignty and establish our own essential emergency services under our very own Homeland Security Department.

It is with great pride I can report that the vigorous efforts of the Tribal Council have seen to it that we have entered into Mutual Aid Agreements with the City of Taunton and

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Flag Raised Over Reservation

**O**n Friday, January 8, the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs officially designated tribal lands in Mashpee and Taunton as a reservation for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. Citizens of the Tribe celebrated the U.S. government's final recognition of the tribe's sovereign lands at the Tribe's Community and Government Center on Monday, January 11.

The designation is a final step in a long journey to become a sovereign nation.

Chief Vernon "Silent Drum" Lopez, who fought in the Battle of Normandy during World War II, says he has been working to get federal recognition since he joined the Tribe's first tribal council in the 1970s.

"From then on we've been working pretty steadily with the Tribe and the federal government and pretty much anyone would listen to us to finally come to this day when we could raise our flag," he said. "It's a great moment."

Vice Chairwoman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Jessie "little doe" Baird shared the following words during the historic event.



"This Land is our Mother. As is always the case with Creation and Creator's plan; our Mother came first before us. Our Mother was created after the stars and Grandmother Moon had been set in the heavens and the Waters shaped the curves of our Mother's body. She was created to provide all we need to live and serve one another. The first People were taken from her Sacred body and the Waters that helped to give her shape. Hence the People were named Wôpanâak, First People. Thus, naturally, we are our Mother as with

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Federal Government Designates Reservation

On January 8 the U.S. Department of Interior officially designated Mashpee Wampanoag tribal lands as a reservation.

Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, gaming on the Tribe's first acquired trust lands cannot commence until those lands are declared to be a reservation under the Indian Reorganization Act. The declaration was published in the federal register on January 8 - less than two months after the

Tribe transferred formal ownership of approximately 321 acres of tribal lands in the Town of Mashpee and the City of Taunton to the federal government to be held in trust on behalf of the Tribe.

The reservation proclamation is the final step in several federal processes for the Tribe in re-establishing a sovereign land base for tribal self-government and economic development for all purposes under

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Events Calendar

### New Events

**February 5 & 6**

Wastewater Treatment Training, *Mashpee Public Library*

**February 14 - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

General Body Meeting, *MWTCCG*

**March 18 & 19 - 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Free OSHA Training, *Mashpee Public Library*

**April 9 & 10**

Peacemakers Session, *MWTCCG*

**April 16 - 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.**

20<sup>th</sup> Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Ball, *White's of Westport*

### Weekly Events

**Mondays - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Youth Boys Basketball, *MWTCCG*

**Tuesdays - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Elders Lunch & Learn, *MWTCCG*

**Tuesdays - 5:30 p.m.**

Enrollment Committee, *MWTCCG*

**Tuesdays - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Coed Volleyball, *MWTCCG*

**Wednesdays - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

**& 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

Tribal Health Yoga with Virginia and Kimma, *MWTCCG*

**Thursdays - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Elders Lunch & Learn, *MWTCCG*

**NEW Thursdays - 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Youth Dance & Drum Class, *MWTCCG*

**Fridays - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

Tribal Health Zumba with Shirley, *MWTCCG*

**Sundays - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Tribal Health Zumba with Shirley, *MWTCCG*

**Monthly - 6:00 p.m.**

Housing Commission, *MWTCCG*,

*It is held on the third Monday of each month.*

**Monthly - 6:00 p.m.**

Chief's Circle, *Old Indian Meeting House*

*It is held the first Tuesday of the month.*

**Monthly - 5:30 p.m.**

Public Safety Commission, *MWTCCG*,

*It is held the third Thursday of the month.*

## Announcements

- » **Correction:** Michelle "Strong Spirit" Nuey and Bruce Andrade would like to announce the birth of their daughter **Faith Mayah Nuey-Andrade** (traditional name: Wusum8ok). Faith was born at Women and Infants Hospital of Rhode Island on December 9. Faith weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces. Congratulations to Michele and Bruce and to Faith's big brother Myels. In the previous edition of the Mittark the birth date was incorrectly listed as November 9.



## RFP for Ball DJ



DJ services for MWT Ball  
April 16, 2016  
Whites of Westport

- » 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.
- » 1 hour break during ceremonial program
- » Set up by 1 hour before event
- » Provide own speakers and equipment
- » Play clean music with no profanity
- » No drinking alcohol
- » Deadline: February 26, 2016 by 4:00 p.m.

Please submit proposal to:  
MWT Ball Committee  
c/o Councilwoman Winona Pocknett  
483 Great Neck Road-South  
Mashpee, MA 02649  
Or [WCPocknett@mwtribe.com](mailto:WCPocknett@mwtribe.com)

## Kia Fernandes Accepted into Honor Society

On January 14, 2016 Kia Amani Fernandes was inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta, the national first year honor society.

Kia is a Wareham High School graduate and a Salem State University freshman. Kia is studying toward a degree in sports management and hopes to work in professional sports marketing after she graduates. The team at Salem State is also called the Vikings, just as the Wareham High School are Vikings. She is in the starting line-up in her freshman year.

Kia is the daughter of tribal citizen Michelle Hughes-Fernandes and Brice S. Fernandes. Kia attended Mashpee Wampanoag Native Tribal Scholars program. She is the grand daughter of Rose Marie Hughes and John Milton Hughes. She is also the grand daughter of Marcine Fernandes (On-



set). Her tribal grandparents are Edwin Luster White and Leona Annabelle Tobey (Great, Great Parents) Etta Frances Pocknett and Ellery Sears Tobey (Great, Great, Great Parents).

Congratulations Kia on your academic success...keep up the good work.

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

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

## Letter from Wampanoag Ball Committee

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Ball Committee is working on planning our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Ball! We are very excited and look forward to another wonderful event filled with Tradition, Recognition and Celebration.

As we look back at the unfortunate events that took place at the Sea Crest Resort Hotel last year, after one of the most positive Tribal Ball events in the 19 year history, there are specific issues we must address to assure this year will not be blemished by the same activities. Unruly behavior will not be tolerated.

The challenge the committee has faced this year has been finding a venue that will comfortably accommodate the growing number of Tribal members and guests who regularly attend and enjoy our Ball.

This year we will host the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Ball on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at the White's of Westport in Westport, MA located about 50 minutes from Mashpee, near Fall River.

In an effort to accommodate Tribal citizens as best we can, the Ball Committee is working on transportation from the Tribal

building to the venue for Tribal Elder's that evening.

While the Ball Committee is not offering hotel accommodation discounts or "block rooms", there are area hotels that we can list for any guests who would like to consider reserving a room.

- » Quality Inn ~ 1878 Wilbur Avenue, Swansea, MA 02777 - (508) 678-4545
- » Westport Hampton Inn Hotel ~ 53 Old Bedford Road, Westport, MA 02790 - (508) 675-8500
- » New Bedford Fairfield Inn & Suites Hotel ~ 185 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, MA 02740 - (774) 634-2000

We are committed to planning a fantastic evening filled with Good Medicine and take time to celebrate all that we have to be Thankful for as a strong and self-determined Tribal Community.

Respectfully,  
Suzette Spinola  
MWT Ball Committee Chairwoman

## New Office for Gaming in Taunton

Tribal Gaming will be moving into a new suite of offices located at 73 Stevens Street in Taunton, MA. The 9,252 square feet of office space will house the Gaming Authority and the Gaming Commission. The new building has improved facilities and the additional space needed for growth as Project First Light continues to move forward. In addition to the extra space, the new office building has ample parking, and is conveniently located right on the project site.

The upcoming move has also opened up additional work to several native owned businesses. Valiant Security owned by Kyle Basset will provide security detail and E. L Avant Enterprises will be providing the snow and ice removal services.



## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Wampanoag Ball to be Held on April 16

The Mashpee Wampanoag Ball Committee is pleased to announce the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Ball will be held on Saturday, April 16 at the White's of Westport. The theme for this year's event is "Celebrating Our Sovereignty."

Tickets for the popular event are \$35 and will be on sale at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center and Puritan's Clothing in the Mashpee Commons. Platinum and VIP sponsorship tables are also available.

**Save the Date**  
**Saturday, April 16**  
**6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.**

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Ball**

## Chairman's Column (continued)

the Town of Mashpee. Both of these agreements ensure two things crucial to exercising our sovereign authority.

1 Anyone who may need Fire or EMS services need only dial 911, and emergency services will be dispatched.

2 We now have a police force that will enforce tribal law and order. We're talking about a professional tribal police force with an extensive background in law enforcement. Make no mistake - our officers will be trained alongside federal law enforcement agents in New Mexico that will put our officers on par with any other professional police force.

Thanks to the vision of our Tribal Council, and the hard work of our legal team, I can also report that we were able to establish these Mutual Aid Agreements with the City of Taunton and the Town of Mashpee while preserving our sovereignty.

Plans are in the works to host a community forum to educate Tribal Citizens and non-Tribal Citizens alike in how this all works on a federal, state and local level.

It's been an enormous task but as Tribal Council Vice-Chairwoman Jessie "Little Doe" Baird correctly points out, we've done this before. Government services in the Town of Mashpee were originated and maintained by our forebears for years.

Of course, even as we establish certain basic services on our newly declared reservation land, we must walk and chew gum at the same time and continue to press forward with our casino project in Taunton to establish a major spoke in the wheel of economic development for our people.

We have our challenges ahead, but, we can rest assured that we will face them standing on our own reservation land.

Yes, I realize the word "reservation" has become a loaded-term. But, as we head into 2016, what our reservation proclamation is loaded with is potential - and the power of self-determination for our people.

Today, we reserve the right to control our own destiny.

Kutâputunumuw,

Cedric Cromwell  
Qaqemashq (Running Bear)

## Divergence with the State Seal *(continued)*

Seeing the tribal flag raised over the sovereign land of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is a powerful message to its 3,000 citizens. It's also renews the discussion on the message depicted on the Massachusetts state seal that flies opposite the tribal flag. It serves as a stark reminder of the historic relationship between the tribe's and the colonizers of the Commonwealth.

"As was expressed by an insightful Elder the State Seal is an accurate symbolization of the fate of the indigenous people of Turtle Island. The moto "By the Sword we seek Peace, but Peace under Liberty" translates to we are going to liberate your land and possessions and the sword will make it peaceful" speaks for its self when considering the current social and economic status of the indigenous people of Massachusetts, USA for that matter the hemisphere.

So, what's on the seal? At first glance the state seal seems safe. There's a blue shield on a white field with a white five-point star, signifying Massachusetts' status as one of the first states.

However, as you look closer at the seal you'll see where it gets weird. On the shield stands a Native American drawn in gold, a bow in one hand, an arrow in the oth-

er - its point turned down. The portrait was drawn from a photograph of an Ojibwa Indian named Little Shell from the Little Shell Band of Chippewa Indians, which is based in Montana. The portrait was selected because "he was a fine specimen of an Indian."

And here's where it really starts to get real. Above the native is an arm brandishing Myles Standish's sword - appearing to be in position to strike down the native at any moment. Beneath the entire image is a Latin phrase, which translates to: "By the sword we seek peace, but peace under liberty." It's hard to see this as anything but an attempt to justify the European settlers' violence against the Commonwealth's original residents.

So, what can we do to get the Commonwealth to revise the state seal? You can start by showing your support for a bill proposed by Representative Byron Rushing that would create a special commission charged with creating a new seal and a new motto. For more information about the bill or to send a letter of support contact Dave VanderWoude in Representative Byron Rushing's office at (617) 722-2783 or at [david.vanderwoude@mahouse.gov](mailto:david.vanderwoude@mahouse.gov).



## Flag Raising Ceremony *(continued)*



all living beings. All that is asked of us regarding our Mother is that in exchange for the life that she gives and sustains, is that we create a society and governance that cares for her; That we take from our Mother as necessary and do so in a respectful and loving way. For many thousands of years we have lived up to those responsibilities and remained here in her Love and care. We have Loved her too, lived in Peace with her, thanked and honored her. We have remained steadfast by our Earth Mother's side and defended her to the best of our ability. For thousands upon thousands of generations the Mashpee Wampanoag have said, we Love our Mother, our Land. For thousands of generations we have said, 'here it is that Wôpanâak were created and here it is that we will remain, by our Mother's side. For thousands of generations our government has maintained an edict of ensuring our grandchildren are not taken away from their Earth Mother."

Vice Chairwoman Baird added, "In recognition of this good road we have collectively traveled, I say this to you my family; Y8 keesukahk Kutahkeemun kuwtahkeemôwun kah wôk kuwtahkeemôwun kutahkeemun y8y8 kah mucheemee yâwuchee kuseepâkunumunân. Today our Land is our Nation and our Nation is our Land now and forever more, therefore we raise our banner. Un-âch!"

The Tribe now has more than 300 acres of initial reservation land in Mashpee and Taunton.

## New Native Women's Group

Native Women of Mashpee (NWM), a group for young women, is devoted to creating a safe space in order to empower women through cultural, and community engagement. NWM is looking for young women to join the group.

If you are interested in participating or donating time, material, funds or space email [teenwm@gmail.com](mailto:teenwm@gmail.com) or call (774) 212-1883.



## Creative Expressions from the Early 1980's

**W**ith Valentine's Day right around the corner Aunt Joan Avant Tavares opened her archives to share a few creative pieces from our tribal citizens when they were kids in her Indian Education Class. The two pieces below are from Nakia Hendricks when he was in third grade and Jennifer Blake when she was in second grade. Both pieces are on the topic of love. We hope you enjoy it and have a wonderful Valentine's Day.

### Love is...

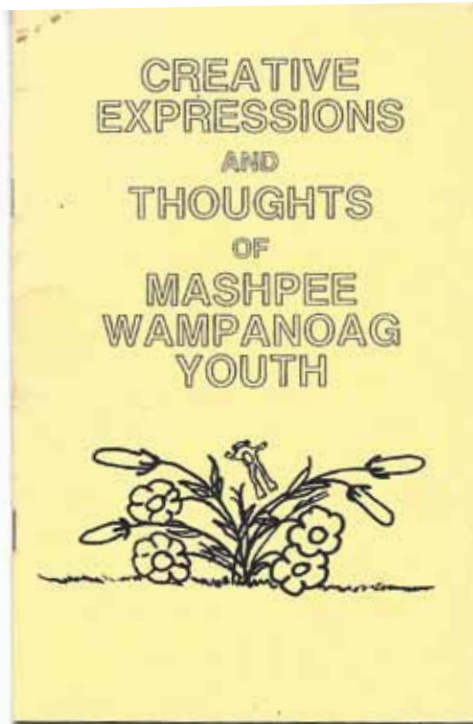
Love is a day of love, friendship, even laughter! Everyone has a great time on a holiday called Valentine's Day. It is very important to remember, don't you think? You should love everyone. I do.

*Jennifer Blake, Grade 2*

### Love is Ageless

I love to see my grandparents because they spoil me. When my parents aren't home, I eat supper over their house. And I get any toy I want. One whole side of my family lives right next door. I love my grandparents.

*Nakia Hendricks, Grade 3*



## Purpose of Peacemaking

**T**here is a speaking with others who hold an opposite view that includes humility, bridge building, and speaking in a humane way. Often we consider justice a voice speaking the perceived injustices inflicted by others. In facing these opposite views listening might serve to avoid alienation of others. If a speaker enters with judgement, one will make a point but lose the relationship. Listening hears people into being, gives them a place to stand, and builds trust and relationship. In listening to opposition, there is a valid truth to be heard. When speaking grievances there must be some tactful way so that one may separate the issues from the person, so that one may stand with them and explore the conflict together instead of shaming each other. There is a fine line between naming and defining issues, and standing in contrast to the other and deeply despising or distrusting the other side. If this happens one becomes part of the problem. Practicing inspired speaking and listening one can face cloudy issues instead of seeing in black and white, good and evil and by thinking through the conflict together with each other.

## Reservation Designated *(continued)*



lands. To that end, the Mashpee Tribe has entered into a Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (as detailed in the state Compact), as well as the City of Taunton and the town of Mashpee.

Tribal leaders are in the final steps of signing a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Barnstable County Sheriff's Department that would provide the Tribe with a booking room, a holding cell and dispatch services.

"Re-establishing sovereignty and building a modern nation is no small task," Cromwell said. "In addition to establishing formal relationships with state and municipal agencies in relation to emergency services, we've also adopted a body of criminal law that essentially mirrors state law. Working in conjunction with our Tribal court system, tribal law will be enforced by recently deputized tribal police officers, each of whom has extensive law enforcement experience."

"After decades of painstaking work, we are overjoyed the government of the United States has officially issued this reservation proclamation, as we are witnessing the re-birth of our nation," Cromwell said.

federal law. No lawsuits have been filed to challenge any of these federal processes or decisions to date.

"This cements our right to self-determination now and for future generations," said Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell.

He also reaffirmed the Tribe's intention to begin construction of a world-class destination resort casino in Taunton this spring.

Yet, even as the Taunton casino project moves forward, Tribal leaders have also been busy dealing with more immediate infrastructure needs, such as the establishment of emergency services on Tribal



## Watch the Flag Raising Online

Thanks to Tribal Citizen Talia Landry and Mashpee TV you can watch the historic flag raising event online at <https://youtu.be/e3WELiBoKLc>





## Emergency Prep. Ready for Winter Storms

**F**or over 70 elders within a 5-mile radius of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center, the Emergency Preparedness Department's winter storm initiatives are at a minimum welcome help and potentially life saving. Support from the department includes a wide range of services from emergency supplies, and snow removal to backup generators.

"We have support services for the entire Tribe, but are particularly focused on the needs of our elders," said Emergency Preparedness Planner Nelson Andrews Jr. "Winter storms can be especially difficult on elders that don't have family support in their home. Our program ensures they have emergency supplies for a 72-hour period, snow and ice removal and in homes where medical needs require power we provide backup generators."

Winter storm services kick into gear after 3 inches of snow accumulate on the ground. At that time snow removal contractors are deployed to start clearing the snow and ice from walkways and driveways. Tribal Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members are on standby to assist as well. In the event of power loss backup gen-

erators are delivered to elders and vulnerable tribal member's that require power and after 24-hours of power loss within the Mashpee area, The Community and Government Center is opened up to all tribal citizens and their families as an overnight warming station. The overnight warming station includes cots, food and other emergency supplies to help tribal citizens ride out the storm safely.

The basic 72-hour emergency kits have already been delivered to the 72 + elders' homes. If you or a family member are over 72 years of age and have not yet received a kit, contact Ann Marie Askew the Emergency Preparedness Outreach Coordinator at (508) 477-5800 x 13 or [annmarie.askew@mwtribe.com](mailto:annmarie.askew@mwtribe.com).

All of this information along with other important updates will be pushed out through the HHANS Emergency Alert System in the near future, and is readily available on MWT E-Prep social media. Tribal Citizens that have registered their contact information into the system receive notices via phone calls, texts and email. To register please send your name, email address and phone number to either [nelson.andrews@mwtribe.com](mailto:nelson.andrews@mwtribe.com) or [annmarie.askew@mwtribe.com](mailto:annmarie.askew@mwtribe.com).

## Tribe Seeks Shellfish Farm Field Assistant

The Shellfish Farm Field Assistant is a part-time, temporary position. Assignment runs from approximately April 1 until approximately the second week of December, or as needed. Hours: 35 hours per week. Salary: \$13.00 per hour

For a complete description of the position please visit the tribe online at [www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com](http://www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com).

Preference is given to qualified Native American candidates in accordance with the Indian Preference Act of 1934 (Title 25, U.S.C., Section 472)

To apply please send a COMPLETED Tribal Application, and Resume Letter by February 19, 2016 to:

Jason Turner, Human Resources Director  
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe  
483 Great Neck Road South  
Mashpee, MA 02649  
or [hr@mwtribe.com](mailto:hr@mwtribe.com)

## Tribe Seeks Gaming Commission Chair

Position: Commission Chairperson, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Gaming Commission. Salary is Dependant on Experience (DOE) plus benefits - Salary is based on a full-time employment.

Location: Taunton, MA

Position description: The Chairperson has the power, authority, duty and responsibility to effectively provide for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's regulatory responsibilities over any and all authorized gambling activities offered to the public by the Tribe pursuant to any applicable Federal, State and Tribal laws, statutes, ordinances and Tribal-State gaming compact. The scope and authority vested upon the Chairperson includes the ability and responsibility to create an independent regulatory agency that is fully empowered to retain or hire sufficient staff as an agency of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal government to regulate all gaming activities within the Tribe's jurisdiction.

Minimum Required Education and Expertise: This position requires a Bachelor's degree in Business or Public Administration or a similar major plus five years' experience as an executive director or tribal gaming commissioner. Ten years of experience as an executive director or tribal gaming commission may substitute for a Bach-

elors' degree. This senior executive position in Tribal gaming requires the applicant to have significant prior experience in dealing with issues of Native American cultural issues, tribal sovereignty and complex legal issues. The applicant must be an expert in administrating a diverse group of employees, knowledge of casino gaming and regulation, completed understanding of federal law and regulations related to Indian gaming, prior experience in the application or tribal-state compacts and the proven ability to work with various law enforcement and other regulatory agencies

For a complete description of the position please visit the tribe online at [www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com](http://www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com).

Preference is given to qualified Native American candidates in accordance with the Indian Preference Act of 1934 (Title 25, U.S.C., Section 472)

To apply: Submit a resume, transcript, writing sample, and a list of three references to:

MWTGC  
PO Box 1161  
Taunton, MA 02780  
Or email your application to  
[hr@mwtribe.com](mailto:hr@mwtribe.com)

## Tribe Seeks Senior Background Investigator

Position: Senior Background Investigator, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Gaming Commission. Salary is \$62,000 - \$80,000 Dependant on Experience (DOE) plus benefits - Salary is based on a full-time employment.

Location: Taunton, MA

Position description: The Senior Background Investigator will be on the ground floor of a developing tribal government regulatory organization and will be responsible for assisting the Director of Backgrounds and Licensing in supervising the background investigative staff.

For a complete description of the position please visit the tribe online at [www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com](http://www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com).

Preference is given to qualified Native American candidates in accordance with the Indian Preference Act of 1934 (Title 25, U.S.C., Section 472)

To apply: Submit a resume, transcript, writing sample, and a list of three references to:

MWTGC  
PO Box 1161  
Taunton, MA 02780  
Or email your application to  
[hr@mwtribe.com](mailto:hr@mwtribe.com)



## Housing Department Update

**I**n the Housing Department we're constantly looking for ways to keep our staff focused, energized and passionate about the good work we're doing in the Wampanoag Nation. Sometimes it's seeing the smile on a person that you've helped, or receiving a letter of appreciation. This month we've adopted a phrase of the month that we think hits at the core and we wanted to share it with you: "You stand at a milestone in your life. Before you are all the struggles and challenges you've conquered along the way. Before you lies a new horizon with thrilling possibilities. Today you choose the direction of your life! Go for it!"

Okay, so let's jump into the meat of our work. Below is a snapshot of the services that are available through the Mashpee Housing Department for 2016.

Rental Assistance	
25 Tribal Citizens.....	\$37,500
Eviction Prevention	
10 Tribal Citizens.....	\$20,000
Down Payment and Closing Costs	
5 Tribal Citizens.....	\$25,000
Foreclosure and Legal	
5 Tribal Citizens.....	\$20,000
Home Rehabilitation	
3 Tribal Citizens.....	\$45,000
Sanitation (IHS)	
Safety & Health	
Rental Subsidy	
15 Tribal Citizens.....	\$54,000 *

*\*Denotes program if exhausted and closed*

The Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department started off the 2016 New Year with a bang! We're working closely with the families selected for the rental subsidies program - gathering required documentation to process the needed support. Thanks to the hard work of the department staff, we accomplished our goal and we're happy to announce that all 15 applications have been completed and awards have been fulfilled the 2016 fiscal year.

Once again, the demand for available rentals is high on the Cape and over the bridge. Please stop the department for rental listings and housing authority applications.

Our Second Success in helping to assist a Tribal Citizen secure "safe and affordable housing" is through our Rental Assistance program. Through the first few weeks of the year we've already provided \$800 in rental assistance.

In collaboration with the Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department and WE Can, please be on the lookout for our upcoming workshop on "Tenants Rights and Responsibilities."

For more information about the Housing Department or any of the programs and services it provides, please contact Housing Assistant Brenda Fernandez at (508) 477-0208 x 104 or at [bfernandez@mwtribe.com](mailto:bfernandez@mwtribe.com).

## Affordable Housing Opportunity in Mashpee

Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Housing Department are pleased to announce two 3-bedroom affordable homes will be built in Mashpee. Applications are now available for the two homes that will be built at 132 Quinaquisset Road and 108 Orchard Road. Applications may be picked up at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Housing Department located in the Community and Government Center. The deadline for application submission to Habitat Office is Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

Applicant households must be income eligible, with a maximum 65% of area median income\* for household size \$53,235 for a family of four, be willing to commit many hours of sweat equity to building the home, and have a housing need. *\*Using HUD/FHLBB median income guidelines, adjusted annually - figures may change during application period.*

The estimated monthly housing payment (mortgage, taxes, insurance) for this home is estimated to be around \$670.

Applicants are strongly urged to attend an informational workshop. For more information about the process, general information about the application or for dates and times for informational workshops in Mashpee visit [www.habitatcapecod.org](http://www.habitatcapecod.org) or call Habitat for Humanity at (508) 362-3559.

In addition to picking up an application at the Housing Department, applications are also available at the Mashpee Town Hall; Mashpee Library; at an application information session; or at the Habitat for Humanity office at 411 Main Street (Route 6A), Yarmouth Port.

Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod is a not-for-profit organization and we do business in accordance with Federal and Massachusetts Fair Lending Laws



## Taking a Moment to Thank Housing

*We wanted to share a truly heartwarming letter the Housing Department received from one of the tribal citizens that was selected for housing assistance in the most recent housing lottery. Below is a draft of the letter and we're so happy this family will be staying warm.*

Dear Ms. Deirdre Lopes,

I wanted to take the time to write you a letter of appreciation. There are not enough words to tell you how grateful I am for the Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department's generosity. The fact that I was selected and chosen among so many eligible contestants is truly an act of God. I know and acknowledge that I am truly blessed.

My very gratitude is beyond measure. It takes away from the very degree of my thankfulness to express and put into words how I feel about this whole experience. It literally brings me to tears. And I have been crying over this whole process. This very process humbles my heart knowing what is being done for me. I am hum-

bled. I am very thankful and with sheer gratitude.

Your department has been very professional with the implementation of this process. From the inception to the completion of the documentation route, never was I made to feel inept nor judged for having received such favor, help, support and kindness. Your staff was very warm and friendly with such an act of kindness and generosity and the goodwill shown to me...during this Christmas season has touched my heart in such a way to be given preferentiality because of my need. I still am overwhelmed and filled up with the love that only God can give...has been shown down on me from the Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department.

I am eternally grateful...and truly blessed! Thank you for all the good work your department is doing for our Wampanoag community.



Nashauonk  
Mittark™

483 Great Neck Road South  
Mashpee, MA 02649



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# COMMUNITY



## Youth Dance & Drum Class

Tribal Youth Dance and Drum Classes are now being held every Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center. Classes will be ongoing through mid June.

All ages are welcome to participate. Dance styles will include Women's Fancy, Jingle, Traditional and Eastern Blanket.

Any male dancers available to help instruct Eastern War style are more than welcome to attend.

We also welcome all drummers to participate. Let's get ready for pow-wow season.

For more details contact Crystal Maddox at [cmaddox93@gmail.com](mailto:cmaddox93@gmail.com) or visit event facebook page at "Tribal Youth Dance & Drum Class."

## Preparing for the 2016 Budget

**W**e're in the process of drafting the proposed budget and will be getting a copy out to all Tribal Citizens in the near future. Like past years, we'll hold a budget information session to give Tribal Citizens an opportunity to gain a stronger understanding of the proposed budget and ask questions. Then, at our General Membership meeting we'll hold an up-or-down vote. While dates have not been set for the information session or the vote, it's important to understand the process.

It's also important to note that because we don't impose taxes on individual tribal citizens, our tribal government does not run on taxpayer dollars, as other governments rely on to provide services to citizens. Instead, we have access to a limited amount of grant funding, federal aid, and investor contributions.

Of course, a budget is not simply an accounting statement filled with numbers. A budget, first and foremost, is a statement of priorities. It's a document that lays out how limited resources get divvied up in the face of diverse needs in a way that gives us the big-

gest bang for our buck. It's important to keep this in mind as you review the document.

It's not just about the dollars. It's also about common sense. So let me say this: like past years the proposed budget will be balanced and will not project spending more than we bring in.

While the road to complete economic independence may be filled with potholes, traffic, and other temporary detours, the 2016 proposed budget will keep us cruising forward on the freeway to our future. We've made amazing strides towards our economic goals in 2015 and we're literally at the finish line. When you receive the budget remember we're putting our money where our mouths and hearts are - a future financed, not by outside investors or government grants, but one that is paved and paid for from the bounty of our own prosperity.

Kutâputunumuw,

Cedric Cromwell  
Qaqeemasq (Running Bear)