



# Nashauonk Mittark™

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DRUM BEAT

DEPARTMENTS

IN THE NEWS

COMMUNITY

ELECTION

## Chairman's Message



Wuneekeesuq Nutawâm (Greetings to my Tribal Community),

Happy New Year!

As 2011 has approached, I have taken some time to reflect on 2010, our successes and challenges, how much we have accomplished and what we are still trying to achieve. Despite serious challenges thrown in our way, we have made great progress and have a bright future together as the Mashpee Wampanoag people!

In 2010, my first full year as your Chairman, our commitment to strong, professional, experienced Tribal governance has continued and has resulted in enormous accomplishments for the Tribe. In the past year, we have provided more services than ever for Tribal members, the most Tribal employment in the history of the Tribe, increased grant money for programs, enhanced communication to Tribal members, more proactive outreach to Tribal members, including plans for an office in New Bedford, and additional cultural opportunities for our members, especially our Youth.

There are many moments and accomplishments in 2010 that make me very proud. Our monthly meetings and newsletters provide clear information

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## 1621 Wampanoag Treaty Featured on 2011 US \$1 Coin

**T**he United States Mint has announced that the 2011 Native American One Dollar Coin will feature a depiction of a 1621 treaty between the Wampanoag Tribe and European Settlers. The theme of the coin is "Supreme Sachem Ousamequin, Massasoit of the Great Wampanoag Nation Creates Alliance with Settlers at Plymouth Bay (1621)." The design, by Richard Masters, depicts the hand of Ousamequin offering a symbolic peace pipe to Governor John Carver.

"We are honored that the United States Mint has chosen to acknowledge our great Sachem Ousamequin and the



significance of the 1621 treaty to American and Wampanoag history," remarked Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Chairman Cedric

Cromwell. "As the first Tribe to meet the Pilgrims, the alliance our ancestors forged through this treaty ensured the European settlers' survival during their first difficult years here."

The 2011 Native American coin will be unveiled on January 12 at 10:30 am at Plimoth Plantation. All are invited.

*"We are honored that the United States Mint has chosen to acknowledge our great Sachem Ousamequin and the significance of the 1621 treaty to American and Wampanoag history."*

## Councilwoman Cheryl Frye-Cromwell Appointed to National Health and Human Services Advisory Board



Councilwoman Cheryl Frye-Cromwell with Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Councilwoman Cheryl Frye-Cromwell has been named to Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius' Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC). Councilwoman Frye-Cromwell will serve as the Alternate Representative for the Nashville Region, one of only two regional representatives providing important tribal perspective and expertise to the operations of the nation's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) activities on behalf of the Tribes of the Southern and Eastern United States.

Councilwoman Frye-Cromwell's appointment is a major opportunity for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to ensure that its health care and human service needs are strongly represented at the national level. Over 40,000 American Indian/Alaska Native people today live in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, over 100,000 Indigenous people live in the whole of New England, and the US Census for 2000 noted that about 250,000 Native American people lived in New York and New Jersey alone. Over 1 Million Native American people today live in the Southern and Eastern states of the United States. Councilwoman Frye-Cromwell brings expertise in Indian Health Service direct services to Tribes along

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## Calendar of Events

### Weekly Events

#### **Mondays - 5:30 p.m.**

Youth Cultural Night, *Mashpee Rod and Gun Club*

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

Alcoholics Anonymous, *33 Great Neck Road South*

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

Beading and Crafts, *MWT Headquarters*

#### **Fridays - 7:00 p.m.**

Youth Ministry, *Mashpee Baptist Church*

#### **January 3 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Food Pantry, *MWT Headquarters*

#### **January 5 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Food Pantry, *MWT Headquarters*

#### **January 8 - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Tribal Photo ID Saturday Hours, *766 Falmouth Road*

#### **January 9 - 2:00 p.m.**

General Body Meeting, *Mashpee High School Auditorium*

#### **January 12 - 10:30 a.m.**

Native American Coin Unveiling, *Plimoth Plantation*

#### **January 17 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Food Pantry, *MWT Headquarters*

#### **January 19 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Food Pantry, *MWT Headquarters*

#### **February 13 - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Elections, *MWT Headquarters*

## Save the Date



The Mashpee Wampanoag Ball will be held on Friday, March 19, 2011 at the Cape Codder Resort and Spa in Hyannis, MA. If you would like to rent a room, there is a discount rate of \$129. Please make reservations soon as availability is limited. For room reservations, please call 1-888-297-2200.



\* Congratulations to **Robbie Hendricks Jr.** for receiving the coveted "Falcon Award" for his efforts as a freshman player for the Mashpee High School Football team. Based on the coaches' comments at the end of the season banquet, Robbie is an all-around terrific team member and student; all qualities that make for an outstanding role model and athlete. Great job!

- \* **Jordan Keliinui** received the South Shore League All-Star Award for his efforts during the 2010 Mashpee High School football season. Despite suffering a leg injury that kept him off of the field for four weeks, he still managed to carry the ball 1,000 yards. Athletes are nominated by their head coach, but voted on by coaches within the league. Congratulations Jordan!
- \* Congratulations to **Scotty Reels Jr.**, son of Lorraine Reels for making the honor roll this semester.
- \* Congratulations to **Savannah Maher** for making the headmaster's list at Falmouth Academy. Savannah is the daughter of Paula Peters.

## Weekly Youth Ministry

Our preteen/teens are under pressure on a daily basis to get involved in alcohol, drugs, sex and violence. To combat this pressure, a new weekly youth ministry is being held on Friday nights at 7:00 pm at the Mashpee Baptist Church (lower level). The main goal is to support and guide our Tribal children in the community. All tribal and non-tribal children aged 12-19 are welcome. The meetings will consist of music, snacks, and fun activities, while hearing the word of God. It will provide an atmosphere filled with love, faith, and hope, encouraging self worth and admiration for others.

## Tribal Float Wins Awards at Christmas Parades

**C**onratulations to our Tribal children and helpers on creating a beautiful float for the Falmouth and Mashpee Christmas parades. Their float, which depicted the Legend of Maushop, won the First Runner-up award in the Falmouth 2010 Christmas Parade, and the Most Original award in the Mashpee Parade. Thank you to Sherry Pocknett and Evelyn Peters-Fermino for coordinating this project, and to all the Tribal members who assisted in the creation of the float and represented the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in the parades. Their hard work made the float a huge success.



## Natural Resources Department Tracks the New England Cottontail

**A**s wastewater and drinking water concerns continue to be at the forefront of environmental issues affecting our homeland of Cape Cod, we are now aware of the negative impacts of over-development of our land. Not only are our waters a victim, but also the diverse wildlife populations found on the Cape and throughout Massachusetts and New England are victims too. One such animal is the New England Cottontail (NEC) rabbit, whose ideal habitat has been greatly reduced due to massive development taking place over the last century. Efforts are underway from east of the Hudson River into New England to avoid having the NEC placed on the endangered species list by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service by creating new habitats to increase the overall population of NEC rabbits.



In an attempt to avoid this classification, the Tribe's Natural Resources Department has acquired funding from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service through USET to conduct an animal inventory on tribal lands and in the tribal use area on Cape Cod. Natural Resources Field Assistant Tony Perry was recently accompanied and interviewed by Sean Corcoran of Cape and Islands Public Radio (a subsidiary of National Public Radio) as he tracked rabbits fitted with collars by radio telemetry. Tony has been tasked

with trapping rabbits in several areas of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge, where he then processes rabbits he catches, taking tissue, blood and fecal samples, as well as measurements of the rabbit. These samples are then properly packaged and sent to a laboratory at the University of Rhode Island where they are tested to determine if the rabbit sampled was in fact a NEC, or if it was the similar looking Eastern Cottontail, that is not currently in population decline. Tony also keeps records on rabbits tracked by radio telemetry to determine current habitat used and their range of movement.

For the full story and radio broadcast on Tony Perry and the Natural Resources Department's involvement with NEC inventory work, visit the following link: [www.wbur.org/2010/11/29/cape-cod-bunnies](http://www.wbur.org/2010/11/29/cape-cod-bunnies).

### Councilwoman Cheryl Frye-Cromwell Appointed to National Health and Human Services Advisory Board *(continued)*

with decades of committed community service in her own tribal community to her advocacy and education responsibilities on behalf of this vast constituency as a member of the STAC.

Mashpee Wampanoag Chairman Cedric Cromwell praised the appointment, saying, "I am confident that the experience Cheryl brings from her many years' work as Mashpee Wampanoag Health Liaison and her recent appointment to and work with the Indian Health Services' Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee will prove an asset to the STAC, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and Tribes throughout the nation. Councilwoman Frye-Cromwell is an experienced facilitator of forums, meetings and conversations between federal officials, state and local officials, and elected Tribal leaders in her official capacity. Her work toward building and operating a fully-functioning health program for our Tribal citizens has been invaluable."

Upon learning of her appointment, Councilwoman Frye-Cromwell remarked, "I am very pleased, proud and humbled to be given the opportunity to advocate for the health and

human service needs of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe as well as people across Indian Country. I look forward to continuing my work as a strong, positive voice for the needs of my people and to building the relationship between tribes and the Department of Health and Human Services."

The Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee signals a new level of attention to Government-to-Government relationship between HHS and Indian Tribal Governments. According to the Department of Health and Human Services' website, "the STAC's primary purpose is to seek consensus, exchange views, share information, provide advice and/or recommendations; or facilitate any other interaction related to intergovernmental responsibilities or administration of HHS programs."

The purview of the STAC covers but is not limited to the following core functions:

1. Identify evolving issues and barriers to access, coverage and delivery of services to AI/ANs, related to HHS programs;
2. Propose clarifications and other recommendations and solutions to address issues raised at Tribal, regional and national levels;

3. Serve as a forum for Tribes and HHS to discuss these issues and proposals for changes to HHS regulations, policies and procedures;
4. Identify priorities and provide advice on appropriate strategies for Tribal consultation on issues at the Tribal, regional and/or national levels;
5. Ensure that pertinent issues are brought to the attention of Indian Tribes in a timely manner, so that timely Tribal feedback can be obtained;
6. Coordinate with HHS Regional Offices' and Operating Divisions on Tribal consultation initiatives.

Councilwoman Frye-Cromwell's appointment comes at an especially important time for the Tribe, as it expands its health offerings to Tribal Members at the new temporary facilities scheduled to open early 2011 through a partnership with Indian Health Services, which falls under the purview of the Department of Health and Human Services. Since receiving federal recognition in 2007, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has steadily increased services available through Tribal initiatives as well as partnerships with federal, state and local agencies.

## Season's Greetings from the WIA Department

The WIA department has been busy spreading the word about career placement and training. The biggest project at this time is coordinating the Labor Union Apprenticeship Program. To date, a select group of Tribal members have begun the apprenticeship process with the local Labors, Carpenters, Teamsters, and Plumbers and Pipefitters Unions. Several of the candidates have taken advantage of the weekly math tutoring sessions, committing their Saturday mornings. They have also attended monthly job skills training and information sessions.

The WIA department looks forward to its continued work with these Tribal members. The time they are investing assists with solidifying their future through good wages, health insurance benefits, and a pension plan upon retirement. They are to be commended for their commitment.

In addition, the WIA department is guiding two Tribal members through the GED process: one at Career Opportunities and the other through the ACCESS program. A third Tribal member is scheduled to take the GED examination in early December. Upon receiving the GED, these three Tribal members will each increase their lifetime earnings potential by \$200,000 over that of a person without a GED or high school diploma. Having a high school diploma or GED is the bottom line prerequisite for employment today. If you need your GED, please call the WIA department and set up an appointment for an intake.

### Job Placement

In February 2010, The Department of Labor (WIA funding source) was adamant about the WIA department fulfilling its mandate to place Tribal members in employment. The department needed to comply with the Department of Labor or risk losing its funding.

The WIA department is here for any unemployed or underemployed Tribal members. But, we do not have a stockpile of jobs just waiting to be filled. Job postings arrive regularly from various sources and they are filled quickly. It is imperative if you are

unemployed to make an appointment and begin the intake process. You will then be on record as a client and as positions are made known, the database can then be reviewed and qualified Tribal members can be contacted in a timely manner.

Since February 2009, 10 Tribal members who are WIA clients have entered the workforce. Their combined annual salaries equal \$237,744. The WIA department commends them for their perseverance in these difficult times.

## Daryl Frye, Jr. Wins Kung Fu Competition



Daryl C. Frye, Jr. recently received two 1st place trophies in weapons and fighting at a Kung Fu tournament held at Bridgewater-Raynham High School.

He also took home a 3rd place trophy in forms at the competition.

Daryl is a blue sash student at the Kung Fu Academy in Hyannis, MA and is instructed by Sifu Cruz. Daryl says he enjoys doing Kung Fu because it increases his focus and discipline skills; rewards that he says will be with him throughout his life. Daryl is very proud to share his achievements with his Tribe.

## Moratorium on New Citizen Applications

On November 30, 2010, with an Enrollment Committee quorum present, it was unanimously voted to extend the moratorium on new tribal citizen applications indefinitely. A moratorium is a delay or a suspension of an activity. This allows the Committee to complete the task of reviewing existing applications for enrollment.

At such time that the Enrollment Committee feels that the review process has caught up with the demand, they will vote on accepting new applications.

## Health Department Notes



**Commonwealth Care Clients:** If you have recently been approved for Commonwealth Care, you must call to enroll and choose a health plan. Your health insurance benefits will not start until you are enrolled. To enroll, call the Commonwealth Connector at 1-877-623-6765 or enroll online at [www.MAhealthconnector.org](http://www.MAhealthconnector.org)

**MassHealth Essential Members:** If you are approved for MassHealth Essential, you will need to choose a doctor in order for your benefits to start. The sooner you choose a doctor, the sooner you will be able to get services. Call the customer service center at 1-800-841-2900.

**IMPORTANT-To All MassHealth, Commonwealth Care, and Health Saftey Net Members:** When you receive your annual Eligibility Review Form, it is very important that you fill it out and send it back as soon as possible. If you don't, your health insurance benefits will be interrupted and you will no longer be covered for doctor appointments, prescriptions, etc. Contract Health Services will not be responsible for paying anything due to your failure to return your Eligibility Review Form.

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

Remember, health insurance is mandatory!

Now that you have insurance, make a WELL visit to your doctor. Preventive care is the best medicine.

## Aaron Tobey: Keeping our Community Safe

**R**ecently, the Cape Cod area has seen an influx of drug and gun activity and the violence that often accompanies these problems. Unfortunately, The Mashpee Wampanoag community has not been immune to these problems. Many Tribal members have been affected directly or indirectly, especially our young people.

As a result, I have become involved in efforts to combat these issues, and have been cooperating with a drug task force. In addition, I hope to work with our state legislators to craft legislation that will make illegal shipment of prescription drugs to Massachusetts more difficult. Given my background in criminal justice as well as my role as the Vice Chairman of the Tribal Council, I feel a responsibility to protect Tribal members from the effects of this activity.

In an effort to deter drug traffickers from infecting our community, I am working with law enforcement officials to go after impact players - those who are responsible for major drug dealing and other crime - so that they can be



removed from the area and do no more harm to our community.

I would like to make two things very clear. First, all information provided to me about drug dealing or other crimes is in confidence. I do not and will not reveal the identity of anyone who comes to me with information or concerns. Second, these efforts are aimed at impact players only - not people who have an addiction or substance abuse problem. Instead, we work to access recovery assistance for any Tribal member in need of services. I have personally taken Tribal members in need to the hospital or to rehabilitation facilities to obtain the services they need, and I will continue to do so. In addition, our Health Department works very hard to help those with substance abuse issues, and I fully support their

efforts.

I have seen the devastating effects of drugs on friends and family, and it is an issue close to my heart. I feel it is my civic duty to prevent the needless suffering this epidemic causes from harming any member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. I hope you will join me in making our community an unwelcome place for drug dealers. I am available to discuss any concerns you may have in the strictest confidence. I can be reached at (508) 982-3290.

By Aaron Tobey

## Tribal Court Update By Judge Henry Sockbeson

**T**his is the sixth article that covers the Canons of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Court Code of Ethics. In this month's article I will cover Canon 7.

### CANON 7

A judge shall perform the duties of the office diligently.

#### Comment 1:

Judges should not permit other employment to interfere with the timely and professional quality of opinions and rulings. Hearings should be conducted promptly so as to provide meaningful access to justice.

#### Comment 2:

Judges should, in the absence of extraordinary circumstances, issue rulings on routine motions within fifteen days and not longer than thirty days from the date of the filing of the final papers relating to the motion. Rulings on Summary Judgment or other complex motions should be issued within forty-five days and in no event longer than sixty days from the submission of the final papers. Judges shall arrange

their workload so as to permit time to file a well reasoned and supported ruling. The Chief Judge may authorize the withholding of payment on invoices from a judge in violation of this Canon until such time as the required decision is issued. The judicial duties of a judge shall take precedence over all other activities.

#### Comment 3:

A judge shall not allow family, social, business or other personal relationships to influence his or her judicial conduct. He or she shall not attempt to use the prestige of his or her judicial office to advance the private interests of themselves or others.

By Judge Henry Sockbeson



The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Health Clinic is under construction, and will soon be open to serve all Tribal members. Stay tuned for an announcement of an opening ceremony early in the New Year.

## Mashpee Wampanoag Thanksgiving Celebration

**A**s Tribal members, Tribal friends, young and old made their way to our Old Indian Meeting House on Saturday, November 20; the comforting aroma of medicine fires, sage and traditional Wampanoag food could be smelled all the way down the street.

The Old Indian Meeting House Committee (OIMHC), which organized the celebration of Thanksgiving, is made up of Carol Lopez, chairperson; Pauline Peters; Anita Peters; Jeanne Peters; Ellen Hendricks; Anne Foxx; and Norman Dias. "We come with Thanksgiving in our Hearts." The Meeting House was packed elbow-to-elbow as the Red Hawk singers opened the ceremony with drumming and song.



Wayne Jackson began the program with a prayer. This was followed by a hand in hand circle to thank our Creator with a prayer by our Pastor, Curtis Frye. Wayne asked for any others to stand and share why they were grateful and to provide thanks to the Creator. There were many who rose to thank the Creator. A feeling of deep gratitude quickly filled the room as we continued by singing, We Gather Together. It appeared that all the natives were proudly dressed in their Native American regalia.

Vicki Wakanabo, her daughter Elizabeth, and her mother Natalie (Couett) Costa were elegantly dressed in their native regalia as they gave thanks. Led by Vicki, the 23rd psalm was offered in a native-spoken view, which included the art of using sign language by this three-generation family group.

Clan mother Mother Bear (Anita Peters) read a poem written by her great grandmother Mabel (Pocknett) Avant "Nakomis". This poem was written by Nakomis many, many years ago and was read from the original paper it was written on.

Trish Keliinui, OIMHC Liaison



recited the poem Growing Old but not forsaken and it was written after the completion of our most recent renovation in November 2009 by our Wampanoag Artisan, Carol Lopez.

After the "Thanksgiving" program, Tribal members and friends gathered outside to enjoy the various traditional native Wampanoag foods. Our Fish and Game Wildlife Committee shucked and shared oysters and little necks on the half shell. They also served steamed clams, steamed mussels and corn-on-the cob that was set upon the table for everyone to enjoy.

Carol Lopez, with two of her daughters, Marcia and Naomi, served shrimp corn chowder, quahog chowder, baked stuffed bluefish with oyster stuffing, oven baked potatoes, squash, and corn bread. Venison stew was also served.

For the dessert, Carol offered homemade apple pies and pumpkin pies. Sherry Pocknett shared her blueberry slump.

A joyous, thankful, loving and blessed "Day of Thanksgiving" was had by all.

## New Hire Marcy Hendricks

### Marcy Alexis Hendricks

*ICWA/Juvenile Justice Receptionist*

I am proud and honored to be the new ICWA and Juvenile Justice Department receptionist.

I come from a long line of strong women who are committed to our Tribal community. My grandmother, Mary Anne Hendricks, who was also the Sachem of the Nipmuc Nation, worked as the domestic violence coordinator years ago. I am very honored to say my mom, Winona Hendricks, has been working for the Tribal Council for 13 years and volunteering at Tribal events her whole life. My brother, Marcus Hendricks, has also volunteered at various events, especially with the Tribal youth. He also is a prominent fisherman, who enjoys the old ways rather than modern times.

I am a mother of two, MaDarius, eight and Aquilla, 15 months, and a descendant of the Hendricks bloodline. Loyalty, dignity, and respect are a part of my everyday life, though it hasn't always been that way; but as a direct descendant of the People of the First Light I have overcome many barriers and obstacles. I am a powerful example that through positive change our people can be successful in our Tribe and society.

## New Hire Kassie Moore

### Kassie Moore, BA, ISS

*ICWA Support Specialist*

I am writing to introduce myself to my tribe. I am the new Indian Child Welfare Act Support Specialist and have been in the department since August 1, 2010. As a tribal member, I look forward to establishing a relationship with other families.

I am the granddaughter of Aaron Tobey, Sr. and the daughter of Caron Tobey-Moore. I graduated in 2008 from Bridgewater State College with my Bachelors of Science in Sociology. My focus is on substance abuse, family violence, juvenile delinquency, psychology, criminal law, and children and families at risk.

After receiving my bachelors

degree I was offered a job at the Emerson House through Gosnold on Cape Cod. The Emerson House is a treatment facility for women and infants after drug/alcohol detox. Through Gosnold on Cape Cod I was certified in CPR/First Aid, Boundaries and Ethics, Confidentiality, HIV/AIDS, and Opioid Overdose Prevention trainings.

The Indian Child Welfare Act Department helps to preserve and strengthen our families. As the support specialist I am advocating for the family and child's best interest. The ICWA Department is professional and confidential and I am here to help.

## Thank you to Congressman William Delahunt

Over the last fourteen years, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has had the great benefit of being represented by not just an effective Congressman, but by a true friend of our Tribe, Congressman William D. Delahunt.

Since his election in 1996, Congressman Delahunt has been a partner to our Tribe, advocating for our needs and for fair treatment by the federal government. Congressman Delahunt was instrumental in pressuring the government to expedite our application for federal recognition. Since the federal government confirmed our sovereignty in 2007, Congressman Delahunt has worked hand in hand with our Tribe to find funding that the Tribe uses to

provide housing, health care, education and economic development services to our members.

As one of his final official acts on behalf of our Tribe, Congressman Delahunt wrote a forceful letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar in support of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Land in Trust application.

We thank Congressman Delahunt for his tireless work and his friendship. The entire Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe wishes him a long and healthy retirement.



*Cedric Cromwell, William Delahunt,  
and Aaron Tobey*

### Chairman's Message *(continued)*

to all Tribal members. We have implemented a new finance system – the first of its kind for our Tribe – that will provide transparency, accountability, and effective management of our Tribe's finances. There have been growing pains with its implementation, but I am confident that it will provide a huge improvement in our ability to manage and share financial information.

2010 gave us many opportunities to gather and celebrate as a Tribe. From socials to services at the Old Indian Meeting House to our outstanding Powwow, I am very proud of the unity that our community has felt and expressed. I encourage all Tribal members who would like to utilize the Meeting House to do so. We gain strength and good medicine when we gather together.

I am proud of the accomplishments of our Tribal members in 2010, including Jessie Little Doe Baird being named a MacArthur Fellow, Ramona Peters winning a First People's Fund Community Spirit Award, and Cheryl Frye-Cromwell being named to the Secretary of Health and Human Services Tribal Advisory Committee. I am proud of all the Tribal members who have given their time to serve on committees, mentor our Youth, and assist Tribal members in need.

members in need. I am also proud of all of the people who run for Tribal office, and for all the Tribal members who come out to vote. Please continue this tradition of participation by coming out to vote in the election on February 13th. And I am proud of the Tribal members who have taken advantage of job training, counseling, tutoring, and other services offered by the Tribe. By working so hard to improve your own lives, you strengthen and honor your Tribe.

I am excited by the many important projects for which we obtained funding in 2010, including the soon-to-open health clinic and administrative building, an incredible community and government center, substance abuse counseling programs, a grant to further develop our museum, and a major grant to establish a Native Scholars Program that will help our Tribal Youth prepare for college. We will continue the progress on these and other exciting projects in the New Year.

There are naysayers among us, however I pray for them and hope that they will join in the positive progress of the Tribe and be part of good solutions for the entire Tribe and not for one specific group or individual. This type of activity is unhealthy and promotes bad medicine for our tribe. I challenge this very small negative group of tribal members to stop the bad acts of hurt-

ing and bringing the Tribe down and focus instead on the success of the Tribe. I hope that all Tribal members can join together to support each other in the New Year and work together as we continue on the challenging journey ahead of us. I am very confident in this Tribal government and our people. We have overcome monumental challenges that have been placed in front of us, including those caused by bad acts of previous administrations. Together, we rise and shine like the sun each and every day.

Please join with me in welcoming the New Year with new and refreshed energy and good medicine. May the Creator look over our Tribe, heal our sick, nurture our youth, support our elders, help our working people provide, bless our Tribal Council with energy, strength, courage, vision and wisdom to continue to positively grow our nation, and take care of our mother earth so that she lives on for our seven generations to come!

As long as the wind blows, the grass grows and the river flows, we are the People of the First Light. Happy New Year to all of my Tribal people! I love you all and may peace and good health be with you!

Kutuputunmuw Qaqeemasq,  
Cedric Cromwell



Nashauonk  
Mittark™

483 Great Neck Road South  
Mashpee, MA 02649

## ELECTION NEWS

### Good Luck Candidates

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Election Committee congratulates all tribal members who are pursuing candidacy in the upcoming tribal elections for two open Council seats to be held on Sunday, February 13, 2011. Regardless of the outcome of the election, the pursuit of the nomination process exhibits a rare commitment to civic responsibility to the tribe and each and every tribal member who enters this process should be congratulated for their dedication.

Tribal members who have taken out nomination papers must submit all documentation to the Election Committee no later than **2:30 pm on Sunday, January 9, 2011.**

Documents must include certification the candidate is an enrolled tribal member at least 18 years of age on or before the date of the election; an affidavit of family relations on the existing Council not to exceed two immediate family members; an affidavit the candidate is free of felony conviction for at least five years prior to the election date;

certification of attendance at least six or more General Body or Council meetings within the 12 months preceding the election obtained from the elected Tribal Secretary before the end of business on January 7, 2011.

Potential Candidates must pick up the Candidate Packet in person at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Office in person and sign a Receipt and Acknowledgement.



**Nomination Papers  
Must be Submitted to  
the Election Committee  
by 2:30 p.m. on Sunday,  
January 9, 2011**

**Elections for Two Open  
Council Seats to be  
Held on Sunday, Febru-  
ary 13, 2011**