



# Nashauonk Mittark™



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January 2016

DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY

## Chairman's Column



Dear Tribal Family,

Happy New Year! There's no doubt last year was a monumental, historic year for our Tribe – the year we re-established sovereign territory for our Tribal Nation!

We are now in a place where we can control our destiny, according to the values and traditions of our people. Self-determination is ours.

And as we enter 2016 that momentum will continue. We are moving forward with Project First Light in Taunton and there will be exciting new developments as we roll out our plans to develop our first-class destination resort casino. There are a lot of moving pieces with that project that will require determined focus and effective execution. Yet, even in the face of that monumental task, we must walk and chew gum at the same time.

As I've said all along, the casino project is only one spoke in the wheel of economic development. There is another significant spoke in the wheel of economic development being diligently worked on by our Economic Development and Planning Department. That nitty-gritty work may not garner the newspaper headlines generated by Project First Light but make no mistake: developing a formal Community Economic Development plan - beyond gaming - is vital.

While the community economic development session originally scheduled for January 6-7 has been postponed until the spring, the issues they want to raise are still timely. The central question they are asking Tribal citizens is: "What's Your Vision?" They are referring to these input sessions as "dream-catcher conversations" because that's precise-

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## Developing Emergency Services: A Sovereign Right

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has made it a priority to develop the emergency services needed to protect its citizens and citizens from other federally recognized tribal nations while they are on reservation lands. At the base of this priority is the Mutual Aid Agreements (MAA) with the state, neighboring towns and local services. The MAAs essentially allows emergency services like police, fire and EMT to cross borders with permission or under certain circumstances and are common practice between towns, counties and states.

The Tribe has already completed MAAs with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the city of Taunton and is in the final steps to completing an MAA with the Barnstable County Sheriff that would provide the Tribe with a booking room, a holding cell and dispatch services. The Tribe is also working with the town of Mashpee to complete an MAA that is almost identical to the one com-

pleted with the city of Taunton.

"These Mutual Aid Agreements have become somewhat formulaic for us," said vice chairwoman Jessie "Little Doe" Baird. "We know what services we have the resources to develop now, services that we can share with our neighboring towns and the services on our end that are going to take longer to develop. These agreements are all about improving services on both sides of the border and ensuring we know how issues will flow onto and off of tribal land."

While similar to the City of Taunton, the MAA with the town of Mashpee has to be tailored to the resources and needs of the tribal nation and the town. It's these variables that have slowed down passing of the agreement as selectman and council members seek clarification and revisions from the attorneys.

"It's important that all sides have a strong understanding of what is being signed and that we all take the time needed to discuss

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## Tribal Athletes Lead Mashpee to Title



With two tribal athletes consistently dominating on both sides of the ball the Mashpee High Falcons were able to cruise to their second Super Bowl title in four years defeating St. Bernard 28-8 at Gillette Stadium on December 5. All-Scholastic running back and strong safety DeShaun Dias was the key to the team's offense and Joey Spinola, a 6-foot-3-inch, 225-pound defensive end and tight end, was the team's shutdown player

on defense.

Mashpee High Football Coach Matt Triveri, who was named Patriots High School Coach of the Year, saw DeShaun and Joey as the leaders of the team all season. "Joey is always in the backfield making big plays and DeShaun is just a great back."

Coach Triveri named Joey Defensive Player of the Year for his impressive play making ability that included 8 sacks

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## Events Calendar

### New Events

**January 9 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
Family Immersion Day, MWTCGC

**January 10 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
General Body Meeting, MWTCGC

#### February 5 & 6

Wastewater Treatment Training, Mashpee Public Library

**February 14 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
General Body Meeting, MWTCGC

**March 18 & 19 – 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
Free OSHA Training, Mashpee Public Library

### Weekly Events

**Mondays – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**  
Youth Boys Basketball, MWTCGC

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

**Tuesdays – 5:30 p.m.**  
Enrollment Committee, MWTCGC

**Tuesdays – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
Coed Volleyball, MWTCGC

**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, MWTCGC

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

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

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

**Monthly – 6:00 p.m.**  
Housing Commission, MWTCGC,  
*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, MWTCGC,  
*It is held the third Thursday of the month.*



## Tribal Announcements



» **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 November 9. Faith weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces. Congratulations to Michele and Bruce and to Faith’s big brother Myels.



» Congratulations to **Jacyn White and Norman (Joey) Dias** on the birth of their daughter **Neepawus (Sunshine) Azsuriyah Dias-White**. Sunshine was welcomed into the world by her parents and brother Christopher Morris and sister Anaquhs Dias. She was delivered by natural water birth at Beth Isreal Deaconess Hospital in Plymouth on the October 18 hunters moon at 11:01 p.m. Please join us in welcoming Sunshine to our Tribe.

» **Emily Vigneau**, daughter of Program Assistant for the Housing Department Marcelle Vigneau, was recently accepted to Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island. In addition to being accepted into the prestigious university, Emily also received the \$40,000 Presidential Academic Scholarship in recognition of her prior achievements in high school and in the Native Tribal Scholars (NTS) program hosted by the Education Department. Congratulations Emily on your continued success.

## Mariah Graduates from Divers Academy

Mariah Hendricks is aiming high and diving deep after graduating from Divers Academy International in Erial, New Jersey on November 23. Having completed the 5-month program, Mariah is now certified for commercial diving, underwater welding, construction, bridge and boat inspection, salvaging sunken structure, pipeline layout and construction for oilrigs, and inspection for welds using liquid and magnetic testing.

Divers Academy International is the leading dive school with the nation’s deepest 60-foot open water dive quarry. The intensive program has given over 7,000 graduates training and certification needed to excel in a career in commercial diving.

Mariah is currently working towards getting a start in a union section with



a long-term goal of becoming a dive medical technician. She’s the daughter of Martin “Bruzzy” Hendricks and the late Jayne Ellen Hendricks. Congratulations Mariah on this amazing accomplishment. Your family and tribe are extremely proud of you.

## 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 Nashaouk Mittark. Please contact Trish Keliinui at [trish.keliinui@mwtribe.com](mailto:trish.keliinui@mwtribe.com).

## Steven Named Athlete of the Week

**B**ristol Community College men's basketball player Steven Johnson-Gonsalves was named Athlete of the Week at the end of November. Steven is a sophomore forward for the Bayhawks and is a graduate from Harwich High School. Steven is the son of the late Elisha Clay Ash Johnson-Gonsalves and Steven Gonsalves, the grandson of the late Linda Yellow Year of Joy and the late Edward "Buddy" Johnson. He's the nephew of Winnie and Marlon Graham and Erica Johnson and Godbrother to Malana mushqay wopan "Red Dawn" Graham. Steven has maintained a 3.2 grade point average and just recently moved into his own apartment. Congratulations on an honor well deserved, Steven. Your commitment to constant improvement and achieving your goals makes you a positive role in the community. Your family and Tribe are extremely proud of all that you do.



## TAP Awarded 5-Year Grant from Department of Health and Human Services

The Tribal Action Plan has landed a 5-year (\$50,000 per year) grant from the Department of Health and Human Services with the help of Tribal Citizen and Sr. Grant Writer Leslie Jonas. The funding will be used to conduct small community needs assessments within the Tribal Community around substance abuse and mental health prevention. Since it's the Tribal Action Plan's initiative to be community driven the assessments will be done in an open community forums called 'Community Wellness Input Sessions' that will target specific Tribal citizen groups based on age and location. The assessments will give the Tribal Action Plan qualitative data that will help drive the 5-year community wellness plan.

The next few months the Grant Administrator/Tribal Action Plan Coordinator Hope Shwom will be working on an implementation process of the grant objectives. She recently submitted a technical assistance request to the Office of Substance Abuse and

Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) to provide the Tribe with onsite train the trainer training for Gathering of Native Americans curriculum, which is a model that can be used to conduct the grant's needs assessments.

Hope will also be working with the United South and Eastern Tribes' Epidemiology center to provide onsite training specific to aggregating the data that will come out of the 'Community Wellness Input Sessions'. It is the belief of the Tribal Action Plan that the only way our community will heal is if we heal ourselves and for us to conduct our own assessments of our health status is the first step to that process.

As always, if you have any questions about the Tribal Action Plan, contact Hope Shwom at [hswhom@mwtribe.com](mailto:hswhom@mwtribe.com) or 508-477-0208 x121. Please stay tuned for more information to come as this 5-year grant starts rolling out.

## Two Open Seats on Housing Commission

The Housing Commission currently has two open seats and is searching for two new committee members to assist with the Housing Department. The mission of the Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department is to provide safe affordable housing to eligible tribal citizens, and other Native Americans

who reside in the Tribe's service area. Tribal Members interested in serving on the Housing Commission should send a letter of interest to Housing Director Deirdre Lopes at [dlopes@mwtribe.com](mailto:dlopes@mwtribe.com) by February 22, 2016

## Chairman's Column

(continued)

ly what Danielle and Billie are trying to do: to listen and document what kind of economic dreams Tribal citizens have for the future.

The input gleaned from this will help form the basis of a formal Community Economic Development plan for our Tribe, the same kind of plan commonly established by Tribal (and non-tribal municipal) governments everywhere. Danielle and Billie, in fact, have been consulting on this, with United Southern & Eastern Tribes (USET), a Native alliance that our Tribe has long been affiliated with and who has years of experiences helping Tribe's develop a Community and Economic Development plan.

This is not a top-down planning approach where only department heads provide input, but rather an approach where the community will dictate what the economic development plan will be. This is a grassroots framework that seeks the input from as many Tribal citizens as possible to ensure that the finished product reflects the vision and values of our community.

That's why the input sessions were designed to encourage robust discussion around the themes of community values, seven forms of capital, economic development goals, objectives, and Tribal project priorities.

What kinds of tribal businesses do we want to create? What tribal enterprises do we want to put in place to expand employment opportunities and create additional sources of revenue beyond gaming? What kind of products and services would best serve our Tribe and enhance community well-being?

I believe in the ancient wisdom that says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." So I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that your voice in this process will help to sustain our people for generations to come.

Please don't sit on the sidelines of this conversation. Let your voice be heard! Our economic development plan will only succeed if we get maximum input from Tribal citizens.

Share your vision and dreams for our future.

Kutâputunumu,

Cedric Cromwell  
Qaqemashq (Running Bear)

## Indian Country Today Article Looking Ahead to 2016 by Gale Courey Toensing

I can't look forward to 2016 without looking back at 2015, and the centuries before. Last year at this time, Mashpee was still a "landless" tribe. We have left that painful truth behind. For centuries, we have lived in our homelands, walked among our ancestors, but without power to protect those homelands and with only limited power to protect our people. This year, our ancestors have helped us leave some of the pain behind. This year, we have achieved our first trust land base, founded in the record left for us by our ancestors, as they fought to occupy and protect that land base over hundreds of years of pressure. We have their records, the Interior Department has their records, and now the past has come forward to support the present, as it always has. We know and end to the centuries of technicalities designed to remove us from our lands. From this time forward, our children and their children will know that our homeland can be protected. And it will be used for the people.

What comes next? We have centuries worth of damage to repair. And we are expecting to build on the foundation of our first



reservation. Our people need economic development, so that we can establish and enhance basic services. Like much of Indian country, we need to provide employment and educational opportunities, we need to continue to improve the availability of health and human services to our people. On our reservation. We are proud to be able to refer to our reservation, finally. On that reservation, we will build tribal housing, to make it affordable for our people to return to their homelands. We will continue the important work of our language and culture departments, because we

recognize that living among our ancestors, in their language, on their lands, is the way that we will move forward into the future.

On a national level, we look forward to continue working with the governmental officials who have helped us to reach this stage in our journey. We will continue to benefit from the hard work of the team at the Interior Department. We thank Assistant Secretary Washburn for his dedication and courageous efforts to improve the tribal trust relationship across all branches of government. We are confident that these improvements will continue under Acting Assistant Secretary Larry Roberts and the rest of the team now in place.

In an election year, the thicket of issues in Washington becomes ever more tangled. We will continue to support efforts to "fix" the uncertainty introduced by the Carcieri decision. We remain concerned by attacks on tribal sovereignty in Congress, and in the courts. These attacks continue, and they are troubling. But of one thing, we are certain - we are not going away. Like our relatives in tribes across the country - we will remain - forever.

## Marjorie Seagraves Retires

On a cold fall day in 2007, tribal member Marjorie Seagraves living comfortably in Kentucky having recently retired from work received a phone call that would change her life. So began Marjorie's call to service for her tribe.

Marjorie Seagraves, is a member of the Hicks family and daughter of Bertha Elizabeth Hicks and Frederick Hines Sr. grew up outside of Mashpee, and worked in the professional world for most of her life. When she received the call to serve her community she was unsure if she wanted to take on the challenge of a new Finance department for the tribe, but ultimately made the decision to return home.

When Marjorie arrived the Finance Department consisted of herself, the Tribal Treasurer and a Finance Assistant. As operations grew year over year Marjorie and the Treasurer scaled the department to meet the demand and now the department has a team of eight employees that handle everything from grants management to accounts payable along with annual 1099 and W2 reporting and of course payroll and budget reporting.

Since then, the finance team, which includes many tribal citizens over the years, has successfully garnered clean audits every

year since 2010. Marjorie initiated new accounting standards for the Tribe developing the "Chart of Accounts" and MIP coding as well as the payroll system still being used. All of these initiatives put structure around our accounting procedures and have strengthened the Tribe's operations.

In 2012 Marjorie received the Mashpee Wampanoag Business and Professional Leadership Award. This award honors a tribal member who has been successful in launching a business or professional career while balancing the need to be successful and the need to retain our culture and traditions, and as such is a positive role model for our youth.

It's safe to say the Finance Department and the Tribe would not be the same had Marjorie not accepted that call in the fall of 2007. We are grateful for her guidance and support over the years and wish her all the best in her next endeavors.

By Jason Turner

## Farewell Luncheon for Milton Pratt



*Milton and Cathy at luncheon with a gift presented during the farewell event.*

On Tuesday, December 15 a farewell luncheon was held for Milton Pratt. The wonderful gathering along with several gifts to thank him for his tenure clearly moved Milton. Among the gifts was a clay pot that Milton's wife Cathy first saw several years ago at an arts festival. Milton has served as our Comptroller since 2011 and will be greatly missed. Over the past few months Milton has worked very closely with our new Comptroller, Ann-Margret Leaman. Milton's wife Cathy joined Tribal Council Treasurer and staff for the luncheon.

## CCDF to Host Parenting Class Starting February 8

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) will be hosting parenting class at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center. The 16-week program will be held on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. starting Monday, February 8, 2016. Registration for the class will open on Monday, February 1 and end on February 7...it's important that you register for the class by Sunday, February 7.

The parenting class is free to parents and guardians of tribal children and will be facilitated by Children and Family Services. Attendees that complete the 16-week class will receive a parenting certificate.

Childcare is not provided with this program. For more information or to schedule a registration intake date please contact CCDF Program Manager Marcy Hendricks at (508) 477-0208 x160 or at [ma-hendricks@mwtribe.com](mailto:ma-hendricks@mwtribe.com). You may also reach out to CCDF Program Assistant Eileen Miranda at [emiranda@mwtribe.com](mailto:emiranda@mwtribe.com).

## Tribe Hires New Human Services Director

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is pleased to announce Unique Lopes has joined operations as the new Human Services Director. As the new Human Services Director, Unique will directly oversee Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Tribal Health, and Emergency Services (wraparound). Her past experience and education makes Unique a welcome addition to manage and move forward these vital services while advocating for tribal citizens.

Unique was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts and was raised by her grandmother Phyllis Lopes. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of New Haven. While attempting to find her niche Unique developed a strong sense of devotion towards criminal law after the tragic loss of her brother Cecil M. Lopes III during her senior year at UNH.

Immediately following her graduation Unique obtained a position at the Department of Attorney General's Office in Providence, RI. She fulfilled the role of Adult/Juvenile Legal Clerk within the Criminal Division. Several months later Unique accepted a position as Victim/Witness Advocate as well as Superior Court Probation Violation Liaison. She became a source of support for her client's while providing guidance, knowledge and encouragement for victims and witnesses of violent crimes through the court process.

Several years later Unique switched fields and accepted the position of Dual Diagnosis Treatment Coordinator for South Bay Mental Health in Swansea, MA. Unique facilitated mental health and substance abuse education for her client's within group settings as well as during one on one sessions.

She quickly realized the importance of focusing on each individual's strengths to assist with instilling self-determination and perseverance towards enabling others to live a healthier, more meaningful and stable life style physically, mentally and emotionally. Assisting her client's with identifying and



addressing the root cause of their issues has become the catalyst for enabling clients towards maintaining their mental stability and recovery. Unique further states it is just as important to utilize intervention methods as well as preventative measures regarding mental health and addiction issues.

This position and experience gave Unique a deep appreciation and commitment towards improving the quality of life. Over the years Unique has developed a passion for assisting disadvantaged people with meeting their needs.

Unique states she is beyond grateful and excited towards becoming a new addition within our Tribal Community and Government Center to share her knowledge and experience towards improving the self-sufficiency of our tribe. Unique plans to assist her team with improving the accessibility of various services available while maintaining continuity of care by utilizing a multidisciplinary approach to better serve our tribal community.

Unique believes life is what you make, but from time to time we all require support and guidance to reach towards our full potential.

## Tribal Council to host a Workshop for town of Mashpee

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council has extended an invitation to Mashpee Selectman and Emergency Service professionals to attend a special workshop on Indian federal law jurisdiction. Tribal Council believes that it is in the best interest of the tribe, its citizens and the town of Mashpee that all parties have a strong understanding of Indian Law and the many advantages this new relationship will bring to both the tribe and the town.

Brandy Toelupe, associate attorney at Tilden McCoy + Dilweg, who has been working closely with the tribe and is an expert on the topic of Indian law will facilitate the workshop. While a date has not been finalized for the training the town accepted the initial invitation.

## Developing Emergency Services *(continued)*

the issues before signing the agreement," said vice chairwoman Baird. "We're making progress in this area as we've already cleared up several issues and a misunderstanding around jurisdiction at a recent meeting [December 21] with town officials."

Now that the town understands that the Tribe only has jurisdiction over its tribal citizens and the citizens of other feder-

ally recognized tribes while on reservation lands Vice Chairwoman Baird is optimistic that the agreement will move forward when the Mashpee Selectman return in January.



## Finance Department Report from Marjorie

**T**he finance department designed the foundation for the Sage MIP accounting system, the Chart of Accounts (CoA). The CoA was developed to best aid in GASB reporting, gathering data for indirect cost negotiations, and financial statement reporting. The segments of the CoA include the fund, general ledger, grant/program, and purpose. With this type of segmenting, we can design various reporting structures for governmental and tribal requirements.

Once the CoA was complete and implemented, we began the review and maintenance of vendor files for import into the Accounts Payable module of the Sage MIP system. This was done in preparation for Accounts Payable processing. The A/P module was integrated into the Sage Accounting system on August, 2010.

The finance department began the monumental task of data file preparation for implementation of the Human Resource and Payroll Modules. The Human Resource and Payroll modules were integrated into the Sage MIP accounting system January 1, 2011.

By January 1, 2012, we produced and implemented the First Comprehensive An-



nual Budget for The Tribe, which was adopted by The Tribal Council and The Tribal General Membership. The Tribe received Its' first External Audit with "No Findings" for Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2011 and we have received "Clean Audits" from then thru December 31, 2014. We expect to have the same results for Year Ending December 31, 2015.

It has been the honor and privilege for Finance to serve The Tribe. We hope to continue to do so.

Respectfully,  
Marjorie Seagraves

## Housing Department Participates in NLC Training

The Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department was fortunate to be the recipient of seven days of intensive training provided by The Native Learning Center through the Eastern/Woodlands Office of Native American Programs (EWONAP). The Housing Department's service programs are grant funded by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Native American Housing and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA) and as such, must follow the federal compliance requirements. Critical to the development and maintenance of tribal housing as well as housing service programs is the three-day Procurement Training. Procurement policies not only ensure that contracts are awarded competitively and that goods and services are purchased at cost-effective rates, they also promote fair and open competition for businesses within the community.

The training provided participants with an opportunity to delve into the procurement process under NAHASDA. Training was interactive, and used case studies and exercises as well as oppor-

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## Contact Information Needed for New Emergency Alert System

The Emergency Preparedness Department is developing a database of contact information for Tribal Citizens. The contact information gathered will get placed into the Health and Homeland Alert Network (HHAN) system developed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and managed by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Preparedness Department. The HHAN system will essentially allow MWT Emergency Preparedness to push information out to the Tribal Community through their preferred methods of contact (phone, email, etc.) in the event of an emergency. This is the fast-

est and most efficient way to distribute information.

The Emergency Preparedness department has setup several ways for Tribal Citizens to provide emergency contact information. There are two clipboards that have been placed in the Community and Government Center - one in the lunch and learn area and a second in the elder's kitchen area - where you can leave your contact information. You may also call the Emergency Preparedness Department at (508) 477-5800 x 15 and 13 or you may email Emergency Preparedness Planner Nelson Andrews at [nelson.andrews@mwtribe.com](mailto:nelson.andrews@mwtribe.com) or Emergency Outreach Coordinator Ann Marie Askew at [annmarie.askew@mwtribe.com](mailto:annmarie.askew@mwtribe.com) to provide your contact info.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Emergency Preparedness Department is committed to supporting our Tribal citizens to ensure that we work together to make all reasonable efforts to prevent and mitigate against all hazards, prepare for and respond to emergencies, and initiate recovery activities on our own, whenever possible.

## Developing a Teen Emergency Response Team

The Emergency Preparedness Department is organizing a team of young adults to serve as a Community Emergency Response Team. The program, known as Teen Cert, will provide teens with the knowledge and critical skills needed to effectively respond to an emergency and provide support to those in need.

If you or somebody you know is interested in attending the approximate 20-30 hour cert training call the Emergency Preparedness Department at (508) 477-5800 x 15 and 13 or you may email Emergency Preparedness Planner Nelson Andrews at [nelson.andrews@mwtribe.com](mailto:nelson.andrews@mwtribe.com) or Emergency Outreach Worker Ann Marie Askew at [annmarie.askew@mwtribe.com](mailto:annmarie.askew@mwtribe.com). The critical skills that are taught in this training will last a lifetime and could possibly help save a life.





## Housing Department Year End Glance

**H**appy New Year from the Housing Department! 2015 was a busy year for all of us in the Housing Department and we thank the Creator that we're here to see another day. Having worked closely with many of our tribal citizens, we know there is still a lot of adversity out there and we are working hard to deliver the programs and funding needed to get our family and friends through these difficult times. We still have a lot of work ahead of us in 2016 but we wanted to share a quick year-end review for 2015 and a glance at our goals for 2016.

Going into 2015 our Rental Assistance program was projected to serve 12 families. Through a lot of hard work by the housing department staff and tribal operations we were able to serve 29 families at a budget of \$37,050.86.

Our Closing Costs program was projected to serve four. We served two tribal citizens with the purchase of their new home at a budget of \$7,670.75. (zero balance)

If there's ever a program we want to see trending down it's our Foreclosure Prevention program. We went into the year projected to serve 10 families with emergency services to keep them in their homes. However, we only had to serve two families. This is a strong indicator that our tribal citizens are doing well maintaining/managing their budget to sustain their homes. (zero balance)

Our Eviction Prevention program was projected to serve 10. We served 19 tribal citizens at a budget of \$29,898.75. We'd love to see this number also declining as we do not

want any of our families going through difficult circumstances like this, but we're glad to have been in a position to help 19 families in 2015. (zero balance)

Our Rental Subsidy program was projected to serve 15. At the end of the year we served 15 tribal citizens and began a new lottery (beginning 2016) for another 15 tribal citizens with a two year subsidy assistance. (zero balance)

Our Rehabilitation program was projected to serve five and actually served eight tribal citizens at a budget of \$100,000.

Indian Health Services IHS served 10 tribal families at a budget of \$126,849.00

Service	Served	Dollars Spent/Balance
RA	29	\$37,050.86/\$15,379.44
CC	2	\$ 7,670.75/\$ 0.00
FP	2	\$ 8,000.00 /\$ 0.00
EP	19	\$29,898.95/\$ 0.00
RS	15	\$31,806.00/\$21,378.00*

\*The remaining balance for Rental Subsidy has been committed to the allotted Subsidy Recipients.

\*\*Due to the extensive need for Rental Assistance programs, funds were reallocated from Closing Costs and Foreclosure Prevention

### **We are pleased to announce goals for 2016:**

**Rental Assistance:** Financial assistance will be provided for first, last and security up to \$1,500.00. The program has a budget of \$37,500 and projected to serve 25.

**Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance:** Financial assistance will be provided at 2% of the approved mortgage up to \$5,000.00. The program has a budget of

\$25,000 and is projected to serve 5.

**Foreclosure and Legal Assistance:** Financial assistance will be provided for arrears and/or for legal assistance up to \$4,000.00. The program has a budget of \$20,000 and is projected to serve 5.

**Eviction Prevention Assistance:** Financial assistance will be provided for eviction prevention up to \$2,000.00. The program has a budget of \$20,000 and is projected to serve 10.

**Rental Subsidy:** Financial assistance will be provided for 12 months up to \$300.00/mo. (Two-yr. subsidy). The program has a budget of \$54,000 and is projected to serve 15.

**Home Rehabilitation:** Up to \$15,000 for code violations, health and safety or threat of loss. The program has a budget of \$15,000 and is projected to serve 3.

**Sanitation:** Financial assistance for septic repairs or replacement (system in failure).

In an effort to support and encourage good landlord/tenant relationships, the Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department will be providing a workshop titled "Tenants Rights and Responsibilities."

Please be on the lookout for dates and times. Information about the workshop to be posted in the Mittark, the Housing Department and all the electronic options available to you.

From all of us at the Housing Department, we hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday and wish you the best of luck in 2016.

## Housing Department Training (continued)

tunities to learn from best practices. Topics covered were small purchase vs. large purchase; policies and procedures; cost price analysis; best practices in bidding; applying Indian preference and Tribal preference; different procurement techniques for construction contracting; developing a procurement plan, and Conflict of Interest policies and procedures.

The training goals were to assist the attendees to comply with effective and efficient procurement and to comply with requirements imposed by HUD and other funding sources. Class participants also learned about the new federal SUPERCIRCULAR which applies to ALL federally funded programs, not just NAHASDA.

The Procurement Class was attended by Housing Department staff, Housing Commissioners, one Tribal Councilmember and several other Department Directors as

well as the Procurement Officer and TERO Officer.

The four-day Policies and Procedures and Self-Monitoring Class held during December covered an understanding of Self-Monitoring: as the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is the HUD grant recipient and as such, is responsible for monitoring the tribe's own grant activities to ensure compliance with applicable requirements and performance goals under the Indian Housing Plan (IHP). Participants learned how to record the operation of a system; observe and review activities over the course of one year; detect discrepancies and take the proper steps to correct them; record and report progress through the Annual Compliance Assessment and the Annual Performance Report (APR).

Various Tribal Department Directors attended this important training as Self-



Monitoring applies to general Tribal policies and procedures as well as those applicable to the Housing Department.

Native Learning Center's Training and Development Specialist Patti Mitchell and trainer Christine Dennis were excited to visit Cape Cod for the first time and were opened with welcoming arms by many Tribal citizens. They toured the Museum, Old Indian Meeting House and Wampanoag Village Housing Development and were treated to homemade quahog chowder. We look forward to growing our relationships with the Native Learning Center!

## Health coverage through the Health Insurance Market Place for Federally Recognized Tribes

**O**pen Enrollment- November 1st, 2015 through January, 31st 2016 -What You Need To Know

- » There is no limited enrollment period for individuals enrolled in a Federally Recognized Tribe, and they can change plans up to once a month. AI/ANs may enroll in a QHP or change from one QHP to another one time per month.
- » While AI/AN's are NOT exempt from paying premiums, you may be able to get lower costs on monthly premiums through a tax credit, the amount that is paid to your insurance plan each month to reduce the cost.
- » If your children need health coverage, they may be eligible for the Children's

Health Insurance Program (CHIP). If they qualify, you won't have to buy an insurance plan to cover them. (CHIP provides low-cost health coverage to children in families that earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid.)

- » If you use IHS, and you do not want to buy health insurance, you need to apply for an IRS hardship exemption, AI/AN's can apply for an exemption to avoid tax penalty. (You have to be up to date with filing taxes in order to use the Health Exchange.)

For more information contact Tribal Health at (508) 477 0208 x166 about how you may qualify or find out more at [www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com](http://www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com).

## Health Service Unit to Visit New Bedford Each Month



On the 4th Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit will host a "mini clinic" at the tribe's New Bedford office. The monthly clinics are just another way the Health Service Unit is finding to improve access to the many services available to keep tribal citizens in good health.

The monthly clinics are on the heels of the first outreach clinic event the Health Service Unit hosted in New Bedford on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A variety of healthcare providers were in attendance along with our new pharmaceutical partners, Walgreens. Our services included blood pressure checks, dental screenings, medication reconciliation, immunizations, behavior health consultation, and registration/benefits coordination. This event has provided a model for future "mini clinics."

The Health Service Units next scheduled on site visit will be Wednesday,

January 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be an RN available at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal office located at 1913 Purchase Street, New Bedford 02740 to offer the following services:

- » Blood Pressure checks
- » Flu shots
- » Medication review
- » Nutritional counseling
- » Clinic registration

Please join us and don't forget to tell friends and family to stop by and get a health check. We would love to hear how we can better serve you and what additional services you would like to see come to your community. Hope to see you there.

Please note other services can be available by appointment. Please contact Dee Dee, Community Health Nurse, with additional questions or to coordinate specific specialty appointments by calling (508) 477-6967.

## To the People of the First Light from the Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department Happy New Year!



### AN INDIAN PRAYER

O' GREAT SPIRIT,  
Whose voice I hear in the winds,  
And whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me! I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom.

Let Me Walk In Beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make My Hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make Me Wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people.

Let Me Learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I Seek Strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy---myself.

Make Me Always Ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

So When Life Fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

Author unknown  
Respectfully submitted: Brenda Fernandez, Housing Assistant





## Wastewater Treatment Training February 5-6

**T**he Employment and Training Department has teamed up with United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) to provide an introductory training program on wastewater treatment. The two-day program, Basic Wastewater Training, is free and open to citizens of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and citizens of other federally recognized tribes that are in the area. The training will be held on Friday, February 5 and Saturday, February 6 at the Mashpee Public Library.

Attendees will receive a basic understanding of what it takes to become a Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator. Those that complete the two-day, twelve-hour training program will be prepared to move on to the full (40-hour) training program and receive a certificate of completion.

Scott Williams, Senior Technical Assistance Specialist for USET will provide the training at the Mashpee Public Library.

If you or somebody you know is interested in this employment-training program, please have them contact Employment and Training Department Assistant Mika Miranda at (508) 477-0208 x161 or email her at [mmiranda@mwtribe.com](mailto:mmiranda@mwtribe.com).

USET was established in 1968 with a vision to build strength among member tribes



by working in unity with one another and to ensure there was a strong voice for Tribes east of the Mississippi River. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is a proud member of USET.

The Employment and Training Department staff is dedicated to providing its clients with the tools they need to become self-sufficient and self-reliant through gainful employment. In addition, the department assists adults with obtaining basic skills instruction and GED preparation. For more information about the Employment and Training Department and its programs, please visit [www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com](http://www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com) or call the department at (508) 477-0208 x170.

## Free OSHA Training in March

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Employment and Training Department will be hosting free Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training for enrolled and unenrolled Tribal members, family and spouses and the general public. The two-day program will be held on Friday, March 18th from 9:30 AM to 4:00 p.m. and on Saturday, March 19th from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM at the Mashpee Public Library. Please contact the Employment and Training Department at (508) 477-0208 ext. 161 to confirm your space prior to the training by February 28, 2016.

In conjunction with the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) with support from OSHA, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is offering this free safety course for individuals who want to work in the construction trades. The roadway construction focused OSHA 10-hour training program includes prevention of safety and health hazards in the workplace, information regarding workers' rights and employer responsibilities.

Participants will also receive 3 hours of "Preventing Runovers and Backovers" a comprehensive training program designed to keep roadway construction workers safe from being struck by construction trucks and equip-

ment.

This training helps give employees the information they need to be able to identify and correct hazards they may encounter in a construction environment by focusing on key safety issues, this interactive training will help sharpen participant skills and better prepare them for work in what can be a hazardous occupation.

DOL-OSHA course completion cards will be provided to participants upon graduation. For more information or to reserve a seat, please contact the MWT Employment and Training office at (508) 477-0208, ext. 161.



## Suboxone Treatment Now Available

Since November the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit-Indian Health Services in partnership with Brigham and Women's Hospital has been offering a Suboxone treatment program right from its office located behind the Community and Government Center. The office-based opioid treatment is available to all Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal citizens suffering from addiction to an opioid.

Opioid dependence is more common than many people think. It affects individuals in all walks of life, all over the country, and here on Cape Cod. It is a problem that is getting worse. Our Suboxone treatment program that will use the 'Shared Medical Model' will be an additional avenue to help overcome opioid addiction.

For more information, please contact the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Health Service Unit at (508) 477-6967.

## Winter Prep Tips from E-Prep

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Emergency Preparedness Department have put together a few helpful tips for winter weather.

Add the following supplies to your emergency kit:

- » Rock salt or more environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways. Visit the Environmental Protection Agency for a complete list of recommended products.
- » Sand to improve traction.
- » Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.

Sufficient heating fuel. You may become isolated in your home and regular fuel sources may be cut off. Store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.

Make a Family Communications Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.

Download FEMA's Be Smart. Know Your Alerts and Warnings for a summary of notifications at: [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare).

## Mashpee Wampanoag Election Committee Notice

**T**wo (2) seats on the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Election Committee with 3-year terms each, will be open beginning February 6, 2016

Any enrolled Tribal member who would like to serve must submit a letter of interest for the Election Committee to Francie Dottin at [FDottin@mwtribe.com](mailto:FDottin@mwtribe.com)

The committee appointments will be approved by Tribal Council

## Tribe Spreads Holiday Cheer at Mashpee and Falmouth Christmas Parade



## One Open Seat on the Enrollment Committee

**T**he Enrollment Committee is looking for a dedicated tribal citizen interested in helping to oversee our enrollment process. Presently there is one open seat for a three-year term on the Enrollment Committee. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please send a letter of interest to Francie Dottin, executive administrative assistant to the chairman, at [fdottin@mwtribe.com](mailto:fdottin@mwtribe.com).

The Enrollment Committee and the Enrollment Department are dedicated to the scrutiny of our tribal roll and by all accounts hold our citizen's information in the highest confidentiality.

## Tribe Announces Several New Hires



Eileen Miranda

**Eileen Miranda** has now joined the Child Care Development Fund team as the CCDF Assistant to Marcy Hendricks. She began with the tribe in the WIA department and quick rose to Floating Clerk where she has been extremely valuable to several departments. She will be sorely missed in her previous role as our Floating Clerk.



Robin White

**Robin White** has successfully joined the Finance Department as a new Staff Accountant.

Previously she worked under Rita Lopez in Enrollment, Catherine Hendricks in ICWA, and she began working at the tribe with Yvonne Tobey in WIA. She is very excited to take on this new challenge and loves working with numbers.



Michelle Harding

Mashpee Wampanoag Service Unit-IHS is pleased to welcome **Michelle Harding** as our newly hired Patient Registration Specialist. Michelle is a Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal member and a proud mother of a 10 year old daughter. She is a graduate of Bourne High School and begun her medical and dental career in 2008. Michelle enjoys assisting patients and is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service.

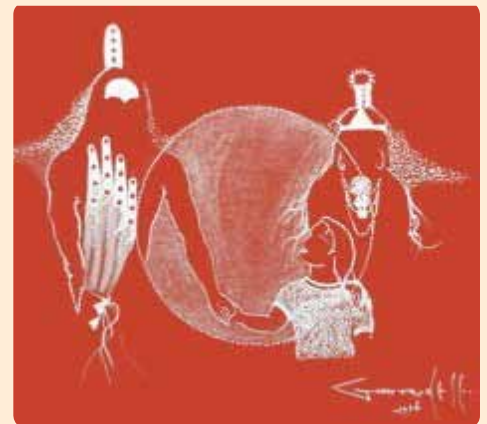
**Bryan Purdie** has joined the Transportation Department as our new Van Driver. His past experience includes driving school buses, towing vehicles, and moving company trucks, as well as pursuing his CDL certification. We welcome Bryan to our staff.

## Foster Parent Needed for 11 Year Old Girl

SPECIALIZED FOSTER PARENT FOR 11 YEAR OLD FEMALE

PLEASE CONTACT  
THE MASHPEE WAMPANOAG INDIAN  
CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA)  
DEPARTMENT  
508-477-0208 X 148

When you needed it most, your parents were there to help guide you. A parent - or perhaps a relative - stood by you, made you laugh, and was there to give you time and attention when the path seemed uncertain. Please assist in allowing the uncertainties for our children, to become more certain through good times and bad.



## Tribal Athletes Lead Mashpee High *(continued)*



DeShaun Dias



Joey Spinola

and 13 tackles for a loss this season. Coach Triveri saw Joey as a “beast on both sides of the ball.”

DeShaun ended his stellar high school career with 4,364 yards rushing and 63 touchdowns. DeShaun is the school’s all-time leading scorer and was without question the most influential offensive player on the field each week.

“A lot of it is Dias. He’s just a great back,” coach Matt Triveri said. “I tell everyone who listens, he plays at a small school but first of all he’s as nice a kid as you’re ever going to meet, and he is a great athlete. Our (offensive) line has been together for a long time. We have four seniors up front that have played now for three years together, and we have a tremendous tight end (Joseph Spinola).”

After Mashpee accepted the Division 6 state championship trophy, the coaches made an unusual request for DeShaun: Give us your jersey.

Glowing from a 239-yard, four-touchdown performance that pushed the Falcons to a 28-8 win over St. Bernard’s, the senior running back did what he was told. Then his coaches told him why: The MIAA wanted to display it at Patriot Place.

“He’s going to try to play at the next level,” Triveri said. “He’s going to be a great teammate, a great person. He’s a winner in all facets of his life.”

It was a fitting tribute to the player that rushed for more than 1,200 yards in the playoffs to lead Mashpee to its first Super Bowl title since defeating Cardinal Spellman in the 2011 Division 4 Super Bowl. The only other Mashpee High School football jersey displayed at Patriot Place was another tribal athlete, #18 Jordan Keliinui.

“He’s going to try to play at the next level,” Triveri said. “He’s going to be a great teammate, a great person. He’s a winner in all facets of his life.”

## Purpose of Peacemaking

Often a tribal member will ask about Peacemaking and how it would serve our people. We feel it is important for our people to know what the purpose of Peacemaking is for our community. Peacemaking encourages people to solve their own problems by communicating in a safe environment. The Peacemaking process is based upon respect, responsibility and the importance of good, conscious, meaningful relationships. Peacemakers are trained tribal members who facilitate in the participants’ development of solutions to their differences. Peacemaking is an option to tribal court for civil cases between tribal members. It is a more traditional way for resolving differences among American Indian people and is intended to serve as a process through which participants arrive at agreed solutions to differences within the tribal community. The Peacemaking process does not determine who is at fault in any given situation to reach an agreeable solution.

Peacemaking is wholly voluntary. The parties and participants are invited to attend and decisions resolving disputes are reached by talking things out. A solution is developed by agreement by all participants. This was the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal way of resolving conflicts in the community. This process predates our court system and reaches back to the time of the People of the First Light, the ancestors of the Mashpee Wampanoag Peoples.



## Athletes Shine at Mashpee High

Five tribal, student athletes at Mashpee High School pose for a photo last month. From left to right are Joey Spinola (football SSL All-Star), Chayna Hendricks (SSL All-Star field hockey), DeShaun Dias (captain/football SSL All-Star, Boston Globe and Boston Herald VI Player of the Year, and ESPN All-State 1st Team Player at Running Back), Brenda Price (captain/cheerleading) and Ciara Oakley-Robbins (cheerleading). Congratulations to our stand out student athletes.



Nashauonk  
Mittark™

483 Great Neck Road South  
Mashpee, MA 02649



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# COMMUNITY



## Community Discussion on Economic Development **Postponed**

The community discussion on Economic Development that was originally scheduled for January 6 and 7 has been postponed to the spring. The Planning and Development Department will be in contact with the over 40 community members that had reserved a seat at the discussion as a new date is worked out.

“We had a tremendous response from the community for this two-day discussion,” said Senior Planner Danielle Hill. “We wanted more than anything to hold the discussion at the originally planned date, but after reviewing the upcoming calendar and potential time constraints we realized the best option was to reschedule in the spring.”

The economic development discussion that centered on the theme of “What’s your vision?” was developed as an inclusive way to gather input about the Tribe’s needs and wants and finding creative ways to breath new life into a native economy. While postponing the discussion will delay progress for the Planning and Development Department it has not thrown them off track.

# What’s Your Vision?

“We’ve still got a lot of work to complete in the background regarding economic development,” said Danielle. “While we were excited to host the event in January, the extra time will allow us to gather additional information to share in the spring and make the best use of everyone’s time.”

The spring event will also be spread over two days with discussion themes on Community Values, When Mashpee Wam-

panoag is at its Best, What Mashpee Should do More of, Three Wishes, Forms of Capital, Economic Development Goals and Objectives, and Project Priorities.

For more information about the economic development session and the CEDs process please contact Planning and Development Department Associate Planner Billie Mills at [billiemills@mwtribe.com](mailto:billiemills@mwtribe.com) or at (508) 477-0208 x 126.