



Nashauonk Mittark™

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mashpeewampanoagtribe.com May/June 2009



DRUM BEAT

DEPARTMENTS

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COMMUNITY

PROGRAMS



Word from the Chairman

A sad chapter of our Tribe's history was closed recently at the federal courthouse in Boston. This chapter was painful to all of us, dividing us and causing us deep and profound sorrow. But we have an opportunity to move forward. We are the ones who will write the next chapter.

I believe that we began to write this new chapter when our people overwhelmingly voted for new leadership in February. Since then we have been working diligently to ensure that we are not only conducting the tribe's business professionally, but also in an open, honest manner. I am proud of the progress we have made in areas such as securing fuel assistance for tribal members, establishing a new Economic Development Committee to lead us into economic independence, gaining the support of our representatives in Washington, and strengthening our Elders Committee with a groundbreaking new ordinance.

While I am pleased with the progress we are making, we still face great challenges - challenges that can only be overcome through our collective efforts,

(Continued on page 8)

Cromwell and Tobey Travel to Washington, Receive Congressional Support

Chairman Cedric Cromwell and Vice-Chairman Aaron Tobey travelled to Washington, DC during the week of April 27th to meet with Congressional leaders and Department of Interior officials to gain support for the tribe's initiatives. Chairman Cromwell and Vice-Chairman Tobey expressed the tribe's concerns regarding the recent Supreme Court decision on *Carcieri v. Salazar*, and asked for congressional assistance to ensure that the inequitable situation caused by this decision is rectified.

The tribe's efforts to secure additional federal funding for projects like the construction of a Tribal Community Center received a significant boost when Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Senator John F. Kerry, and Congressman William M. Delahunt jointly sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar requesting full cooperation from the Department of the Interior as the tribe works to identify and become eligible for funds authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

According to the joint letter, the ARRA includes approximately \$2.5 billion in initiatives designed to create jobs and economic opportunities for Indian tribes.

Senators Kennedy and Kerry, along with Congressman Delahunt, indicated that "the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe would certainly benefit from funding in a variety of categories, including Economic, Business and Workforce Development; Health; Education and Social Services; Food and Nutrition; Water; Environment; and Energy." Secretary Salazar was further urged to identify a member of his immediate staff to assist the Tribe.

Cromwell and Tobey expressed their satisfaction with the trip, with Cromwell stating, "We are very grateful for the support of Senators Kennedy and Kerry and Congressman Delahunt. This was a very productive trip, and we look forward to continuing to work with their offices to make sure the Tribe is maximizing our federal support."



2009 Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow



Save the date! The annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow will be held Friday, July 3 through Sunday, July 5 at the tribal grounds at 483 Great Neck Road South in Mashpee. Grand Entry will be daily at noon with host drum Mystic River, Head Man Dancer Matt Boardley, and Head Woman Dancer Brittany Smith.

For more information about the Powwow visit the tribal website at www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com. You may also contact the Powwow Committee Chairperson, Marita Scott by calling 508-477-0208 or sending an email to powwow@mwtribe.com.

May

- 26 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Adult beading and crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe office, Great Neck Road South, Mashpee
- 29 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The tribal community and local child care providers are welcome to a Public Hearing, hosted by the WIA Department, featuring the Child Care Block Grant for Child Care Development Fund to provide Child Care reimbursement for Mashpee Wampanoag who are working families and participants of the WIA employment and Training program.
- 30 10 am to noon Presentation: Meetinghouse Road Housing Project. Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal office.
- 30 12:00 to 6 p.m. Youth Sobriety Powwow, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal grounds, day money for dancers. Drums: Eastern Suns, Black Brook & Wakeby Lake

June

- 1 10:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. – Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe office, Great Neck Road South, Mashpee
- 2 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Adult beading and crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe office, Great Neck Road South, Mashpee
- 3 10:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. – Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe office, Great Neck Road South, Mashpee
- 9 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Adult beading and crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe office, Great Neck Road South, Mashpee
- 15 10:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. – Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe office, Great Neck Road South, Mashpee
- 16 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Adult beading and crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe office, Great Neck Road South, Mashpee
- 17 10:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. – Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe office, Great Neck Road South, Mashpee
- 23 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Adult beading and crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe office, Great Neck Road South, Mashpee
- 29 10:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. – Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe office, Great Neck Road South, Mashpee
- 30 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Adult beading and crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe office, Great Neck Road South, Mashpee

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- Congratulations to Mashpee High School students and tribal members Taryn Medina, class of 2010, and Marissa Silvia, class of 2011, who were inducted into the National Honor Society on April 28.
- Tribal member Edwina DeWillis Cooley received an early Christmas gift on December 23, 2008 when she became a proud grandmother. Edwina’s son Edwin’s infant son came into the world at 4:26 a.m. on that day weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was named Benjamin Edwin, in memory of Edwin’s late uncle.
- Please welcome Nancy Joseph to the Finance Department Team. Nancy will be assisting Tribal Treasurer Mark Harding and Finance Director Marjorie Seagraves with financial reporting, grant reporting, general ledger and profit and loss statements, as well as the implementation of new financial department systems that will help the department operate more efficiently. Nancy is a former Treasurer of the tribe.
- Congratulations are in order for tribal member Brett Atkins and his wife Janean on the birth of their twins Ella Elizabeth and Olivia Marie, born November 25, 2008. Brett is the son of Betty Anne (Jonas) Atkins. The family lives in Cherry Hill, NJ and is expected to debut the twins in Mashpee at our upcoming Powwow.
- Congratulations to Roscell Lopez-Pitts who will be graduating in June from the Brooks School of Photography in Santa Barbara, California with an Associates Degree in Fine Color Photography. Roscell, a 2003 graduate of Mashpee High School is the son of Marcia Lopez-Pitts and the grandson of Carol Lopez. Marcia’s son Jonathon Lopez-Pitts, Mashpee High School class of 2004, Bryant University class of 2008, is now living in Pawtucket, RI working as a Human Resource Assistant at Washington Trust Company in Westerly, RI. And if you are looking for Marcia’s daughter, Tasha Lopez-Pitts, the 2007 graduate of Elmira College is living in Westfield, MA working as an outreach worker for the Center for Human Development.
- The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Court is developing day by day. Thanks to the Tribal Courts Assistance Program Grant a Contract Judge has been hired to hear cases. Petitions can be obtained at the Tribal Office located at 483 Great Neck Rd., S. in Mashpee. Instructions are included with the Petition Form. If help is needed filling out the form please call 508-477-0208 to find out times that a clerk would be available to help.
- Do you have a tribally owned business? Please let us know so we can include your business in our “Red Pages” to be featured in a future edition. Contact us at MWMittark@mwtribe.com or call 508-477-0208

Tribal members who would like to submit items of interest for On the Drum Beat or news for Naushaonk Mittark should send their information to MWMittark@mwtribe.com. The deadline to submit all edited copy is the first Friday of each month.

Marshall Sentenced to 41 Months in Prison

On May 7th, former Chairman Glenn Marshall was sentenced to 41 months in prison by US District Court Judge Rya W. Zobel for crimes including embezzlement, social security fraud, tax evasion and making illegal campaign contributions. In a statement to the court, Marshall said, “I know that what I did was wrong. I apologize to my people, to my family, to my friends and the court.” In addition to serving time in federal prison, Marshall was ordered to pay restitution of \$383,009 to the tribe and \$84,603 to the federal government and serve three years probation after his release from

prison. Marshall is required to report to an as-yet-to-be-determined federal facility on June 8th.

In response to the sentencing, Chairman Cedric Cromwell stated, “The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has been deeply saddened by the actions of Glenn Marshall. However, the Tribal government and the people of our sovereign nation are committed to moving forward with transparency and integrity towards all of our Tribe members to ensure that we never again experience this type of betrayal.”

Council Approves Economic Development Committee

In April, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council approved 14 members to serve on the newly formed Economic Development Committee. The working group is the fulfillment of a campaign promise made by the tribe's new Treasurer, Mark Harding, to help lead the Tribe into financial independence. The following tribal members are serving on the committee which will have regular scheduled meetings at a day and time to be determined: Cedric Cromwell, Aaron Tobey, Mark Harding, John Harris II, Bryan Hicks Harris, Frank Wing, Danielle Hill, Fenton Soliz, Charles Gregory McKinney, Chester Soliz, Guy Shepherd, John Peters Jr., James Rossignol, Angela Shwom, and Carol Lopez. Officers of the committee will be determined at a future meeting.

News from the Wampanoag Housing Program

The Housing Commission has an opening for a new Housing Commissioner, if interested please contact Alice Lopez, Housing Director.

The Wampanoag Housing Department would like to invite all tribal members for a final presentation of the Meeting House Rd. Housing Project. Come join us and see how our community's hard work is paying off and developing into reality. The Meeting will be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council on May 30th from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm.

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Yarmouth Town Hall
Yarmouth Affordable Housing Trust Housing
2 & 3 bedroom
- HAC, Bourne Town Hall, and Bourne Library
Affordable Rental Housing Lottery for Canal
Bluffs in Bourne- 26 one bed and 1 three bed
apartments. Deadline: Friday, June 12 @ 5p.m.
- New Bedford and Fall River 1 & 2 bed
apartments available.
- First Time Homebuyer Lottery- Gomes Way
Harwich

Please contact Housing Advocate Winona Hendricks for more information about these and other opportunities.

HUD Grant to Aid in Energy Efficiency

By Melissa Hill

Recently, the tribe was awarded a \$244,590.00 grant from the Housing and Urban Development, American Recovery Act funds. The grant will be used toward home rehabilitation, weatherization, and energy efficiency home improvements. The grant, which has made funds available to the tribe immediately, will require the tribe to hire a part-time weatherization specialist. Along with expanding current rehab benefits, the tribe will be conducting energy efficiency workshops. For further information please contact Alice Lopez, Housing Program Director.

Indian Health Service Visit to Mashpee Tribal Health

On April 16th the Chief Medical Officer of the Federal Indian Health Services, Dr. Harry Brown, paid a personal visit to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Health Department. Dr. Brown was joined by his Financial Deputy Officer Martha Ketcher, Self-Determination Specialist Lindsay Harman and Admiral Richard Grinnell, who is the Area Director of Indian Health Services.

The group was very impressed with the Mashpee Tribe's existing health program. Tribal Chairman Cedric Cromwell, Vice Chairman Aaron Tobey and other Council Members joined the Health Department staff in meeting with the IHS officials as a strategy was presented to seek financial support to allow the Tribal Health Team to engage in business development and sustainability planning.

The IHS representatives commended the tribe on the diligence with which it is serving the tribal community. The IHS is expected to respond to the funding request in the near future.

For more information Please contact the Tribal Health Department @ 508-477-0209.



Tribal Council Establishes Elders Council

On May 6th, Tribal Council passed an ordinance establishing an Elders Council, which will make recommendations to the Tribal Council. The Elders Council will be comprised of nine tribal members, aged fifty-five or older, appointed by the Tribal Council. The full text of the ordinance is below.



Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

2009-RES-0011, MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBAL ELDERS COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is a federally recognized Indian tribe (72 Fed. Reg. 8007, Feb. 22, 2007), and the recognized governing body of the Tribe is known as the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, the Preamble of the Constitution of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe was established to protect our self-government and our right to govern ourselves under our own laws and customs, to maintain and foster our tribal culture, and spiritual well-being of our people; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council, is vested under Article V, Section 2 of the Tribe's Constitution with all executive and legislative powers of the Tribe, including the power to make and enforce law; and

WHEREAS, under Article VI, Section 2 of the Tribe's Constitution, among the Tribal Council's enumerated powers are the powers to promote and protect the health, peace, morals, education, political integrity, economic security and general welfare of the Tribe and its members, and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council recognizes as central to our protection of our customs, tribal culture, and spiritual well-being of our people, the role of the Wampanoag Tribal Elders; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Elders are the holders of traditional knowledge; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the Tribal Council of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe creates the Elders Council comprised of nine (9) Tribal Elders fifty-five (55) years of age and over to be at the service of the Tribal Council. At the Tribal Council's discretion, the Elders Council will make recommendations to the Tribal Council on issues of cultural, educational, and traditional matters, and to provide wisdom and guidance to the Tribal Council; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; the Elders Council will meet regularly once a month or as needed to fulfill its purpose. A quorum shall be a majority of the Elders Council members. The Elders Council will agree by consensus to all recommendations made to the Tribal Council at meetings with a quorum. If a consensus cannot be reached all recommendations for the Tribal Council shall be approved by an affirmative vote of the majority of the Elders Council members present at a meeting with quorum. The Elders Council shall operate pursuant to all Tribal policies, regulations, and laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Tribal Council is authorized to accept and make recommendations to appoint the members of the Elders Council for staggered three (3) year terms. Recommendations for appointments shall be approved by the Tribal Council by a majority vote at a meeting with a quorum. Five (5) Elders Council members will be appointed for a three (3) year term and four (4) Elders Council members for a two (2) year term for the first appointments to the Elders Council. The Tribal Council may remove any Elder Council member by a majority vote at a meeting with a quorum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Elders Council will appoint officers, from within the Elders Council, for Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Council members at a meeting with nine (9) Elders Council members present. Officers will serve a one (1) year term. Officer appointments will be held at the Elder Council meeting prior to the expiration of the officers terms.

In addition to the nine members of the Elders Council, the Tribal Medicine Man and Tribal Chief shall serve without limit and, with full voting rights as members of the Elders Council.


Effective immediately and until revoked or modified by the Tribal Council, pursuant to the authority vested in the Tribal Council pursuant to Article VI, Sections 2.A. and D. of the Constitution of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

All resolutions or parts of resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are repealed. This resolution is effective immediately pursuant to the authority vested in the Tribal Council pursuant to Article VI, §§ 2.A. and D of the Constitution of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

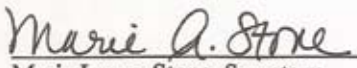
CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned Chairperson and Secretary of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of 13 members of whom 11, constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting thereof, duly and regularly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 6th day of MAY, 2009, and that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the affirmative vote of 11 members, with 0 opposing, and with 0 not voting.

DATED this 6th day of May, 2009.


Cedric Cromwell, Chairman
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council

ATTEST:


Marie Lopez-Stone, Secretary
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS



Cedric Cromwell, Age 44, Chairman, elected February 2009 – term expires February 2013. Member of Council since 2000. Email address: ccromwell@mwtribe.com

Raised in the Mashpee Wampanoag Traditional community and educated in management, finance, computer technology and community planning, our Chairman has both cultural grounding and professional skills to lead this tribe into the future. In addition to his years of experience in the corporate world and as a tribal leader, Cedric Cromwell is a member of the Eastern Suns drummers and singers and an active participant in regional powwows. His focus now is on restoring accountability, transparency and integrity to tribal leadership and unity to the tribal body. "At the heart of my sense of leadership are the core principles of integrity and honesty which have been the guiding compass throughout my life."

Committee and Liaison Assignments: Education/Youth, Economic Development



Aaron Tobey, 51, Vice Chairman, elected February 2009 – term expires February 2013. Former member of Council elected in 2008. Email address: atobey@mwtribe.com

My goal as a tribal leader is to be responsive to tribal members in a professional manner. As a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council, I recognize the critical role our tribal government plays in the sustenance of a just and sound tribal governmental system. I am committed to ensuring that tribal government operates efficiently and responsibly by working to improve government in all areas. I consider it an honor to serve as a representative of the Tribe and will continue to be a "Steward for the People" by taking the necessary action to protect their civil and constitutional rights.

Committee and Liaison Assignments: Fish and Wildlife Committee, Tribal Administration, Indian Child Welfare Act, Economic Development



Mark Harding, 49, Treasurer, elected February 2009 – term expires February 2013. Former two term Vice Chairman originally elected in 1996. Email address: mharding@mwtribe.com

As Treasurer my key objective is to restore a focus on the people, promote tribal Unity, ensure Fiscal Accountability and establish Transparency and Openness of tribal government. I am proud to be a part of a team of leaders that is not only dedicated and qualified, but answers to the people. I have been active in local, state and national government affairs on behalf of the tribe and Native concerns for many years in the areas of recognition, economic development, conservation and historic preservation. I bring proven tribal, community and environmental commitment, and unimpeachable integrity to my role on Council.

Committee and Liaison Assignments: Economic Development Council, Natural Recourse Department, Tribal Historic Preservation Office



Marie Lopez-Stone, Secretary, elected February 2009 – term expires February 2013. Email address: mstone@mwtribe.com

As your tribal secretary I am committed to work for You the members, not the Council or the investors. You can expect to have all meeting minutes documented and published. It is my goal to keep an accurate record of all decisions Council makes on all tribal business so You the people of this tribe can evaluate how well this Council performs and makes good on their promises to you. Among my other priorities, fiscal accountability, the development of a clear cut budget, dispute resolution, human resource management, competitive contract bidding, and I would also like to see constitution reform to include absentee balloting.

Committee and Liaison Assignments: Housing, Education



Cheryl Frye-Cromwell, 44, Council member, elected 2004, term expires 2010. Email address: cfrye-cromwell@mwtribe.com

Cheryl is guided in her leadership by her spiritual and traditional values and is committed to serving all tribal members equally. She will use her leadership skills to pursue a vision of prosperity for the tribe achieved through community building, family traditions and building upon our economic development opportunities. Cheryl seeks to create a Tribal environment with the finest health care, employment and education opportunities while reforming tribal government principles and practices to allow positive change that will include collaboration, respect, trust, forgiveness and faith in our spiritual leaders that will allow us to grow in harmony. Cheryl is an Eastern Blanket champion dancer.

Committee and Liaison Assignments: Tribal Health, Education



Yvonne Frye Avant, Council Member. Email address: yavant@mwtribe.com

With more than 18 years served, Yvonne has more experience in committed leadership of the tribe than any other member of the Council. Yvonne has a BA in Management from the University of Massachusetts in Boston and many years of working with Tribal programs including the Mashpee Indian Education Program. She also worked for six years for the Boston Indian Council, now known as NAICOB (Native American Center of Boston) as their Employment and Training Coordinator and is a former Commissioner on the Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs.



Winnie Johnson Graham, 37, Council member, elected March 2009, term expires February 2010.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Winnie's goal as a member of Council is to be a solid advocate for the people with an eye toward the preservation of our tribe and traditions for future generations. Winnie has been involved in tribal traditions spiritually and culturally since she was a small child and has developed into a young wife and mother who is also a vocal advocate for tribal social and political interests including health, housing education and employment. A former LIHEAP coordinator for the tribe, she has served on the Wampanoag Ball Committee, Wampanoag Language Committee, Indian Museum Committee, Old Indian Meetinghouse Committee and the Genealogy Committee.

Committee and Liaison Assignments:

Education Committee, Language Committee



Gordon Harris, Age 45, Council member, elected March 2009, term expires February 2011. Email address: ghharris@mwtribe.com

Gordon Harris says his motivation to serve his tribal community is a simple one, to be a representative for positive change. He brings a lot of skills and experience to the table. A former Senior Vice President at Sovereign Bank New England, Gordon is President and CEO of Wakeby Fire & Associates, a consulting company that focuses on fundraising and membership development. He is also a former Job Developer and interim Director of the Job Training Partnership Program for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe before he became the Indian Preference Offer and then Director of Employment for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe.

Committee and Liaison Assignments: None at this time.



Martin "Bruzzy" Hendricks. Email address: mhendricks@mwtribe.com

Bruzzy's focus as a Council member has been on tribal culture and the development of programs that support the youth, bringing them into the traditional circle and teaching them the traditional ways. He believes that tribal health resides in maintaining Wampanoag culture through language and traditions such as the Powwow, fireball, crafts and ceremony. Bruzzy has been a drummer with the Wakeby Lake

Singers for more than 30 years and supports the formation of a Cultural Council to function separately from the economic, business and political arm of the tribe.

Committee and Liaison Assignments: Youth Council



Selena Jonas, 31, Council Member, elected February 2009 – term expires February 2013. Email address: sjonas@mwtribe.com

As the youngest council member I plan to be a role model for our young people, encouraging more involvement. With a Bachelors of Science in Computer Science from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, I am working toward my Masters in Business Administration. With education and health as critical areas of focus I want to help our people achieve healthy, successful, productive, and self-sufficient lifestyles as proud Mashpee Wampanoag people. I am dedicating my term to working with Council to establish an ethics ordinance, supporting the growth of all departments, and increasing sustainable jobs for our tribal membership.

Committee and Liaison Assignments: Powwow, Newsletter, Youth Council



Richard Oakley, 57, Council Member, elected 1997, term expires 2011. Email address: roakley@mwtribe.com.

A member of Council for more than a dozen years, Richard's focus is on unifying and building the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe into an effective sovereign nation providing a foundation for future generations. Richard balances leadership with communication with tribal members, discussing goals and vision and determining the true needs of the tribe. Richard believes the Tribe has a bright future and will ensure that all tribal members are the recipient of a high performing sovereign nation that will raise our education standards, maintain cultural integrity, support the growth of our health department, economic development and make our ancestors proud.

Committee and Liaison Assignments: Buildings and Grounds, United Southern and Eastern Tribes (USET) Board Member



Earl "Soaring Eagle" Cash, Medicine Man

Earl, most commonly known to us as "Guy," has been our Medicine Man and spiritual leader since 1998 after the passing of John "Slow Turtle" Peters who had been our Medicine Man for many years. In addition to counseling tribal members in our traditional manner, he performs ceremony on the occasions of weddings, funerals, celebrations, and many other gatherings when it is necessary for us to be reminded of our commitment to our Creator, Mother Earth and all of our earthly gifts. He serves in this role indefinitely and according to our tribal constitution is a voting member of our Council. To contact the Medicine Man you may call the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal headquarters at 508-477-0208 and leave a message.



Vernon "Silent Drum" Lopez, Tribal Chief

Vernon, most commonly known to us as "Bunny," has been our Chief and traditional leader since 2000 after the passing of Vernon "Sly Fox" Pocknett. In addition to counseling tribal members in our traditional ways, Bunny represents the Tribe at ceremonies, powwows and upon visiting other tribal nations and non-tribal governments and communities. He is also called upon to welcome visiting guests to the Mashpee Wampanoag community from other tribal nations and other governments and communities. He serves in this role indefinitely and according to our tribal constitution is a voting member of our Council. To contact the Chief you may call the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal headquarters at 508-477-0208 and leave a message.

Snake Dance

Mashpee and Aquinnah Wampanoag youth participate in a Snake Dance at the annual Aquinnah Wampanoag Spring Social held on April 26th. More than 20 Mashpee youth and chaperones spent the weekend on Martha's Vineyard engaging in activities with the island tribal youth.



Special Election Completes Council

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe held a Special Election on Sunday, April 19 to fill the two council seats vacated when Cedric Cromwell was elected Chairman and Aaron Tobey was elected Vice Chairman in February.

The highest vote-getter, Gordon Harris, will hold the council seat up for re-election in 2011. The second-highest vote-getter, Winnie Johnson Graham will hold the seat up for re-election in 2010. Both winning candidates sounded similar messages after the election. "I am glad to be a part of the Tribal Council team and will do my best for the Tribe," Harris said. Johnson Graham continued, "I would like to thank everyone who voted. I look forward to doing what's best for the Tribe."

The complete results are as follows:

- Gordon Harris: 82
- Winnie Johnson Graham: 81
- Willard Pocknett: 80
- Marita Scott: 57
- Quan Tobey: 37
- Michael Jonas: 34
- Angela Shwom Marcellino: 22

There were 214 ballots taken in the election, with each voter allowed to choose up to two candidates. There were two write-ins and 33 blanks. The newly elected members will join the Tribal Council immediately.

Tribal Council Meets with Middleboro Board of Selectmen

On April 13th, Tribal Council members met with the Middleboro Board of Selectmen in a public meeting at Middleboro Town Hall. As there are several new members of the Tribal Council as well as the Board of Selectmen, the meeting presented an opportunity for the members of both bodies to meet each other and share updated information on the tribe's proposed resort gaming facility.

In his address to the Board of Selectmen, Chairman Cedric Cromwell reiterated that the Tribe is "committed to this town and this project." He added, "The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe desires to establish a long-term, cooperative relationship with Middleboro that will serve the best interests of the Tribe and its members and the Town and its residents."

(Word from the Chairman, continued from page 1)

our collective talents, and our collective faith. Each and every one of us has something to offer, but first we must mend the many fractured relationships in our community. We spend an enormous amount of energy fighting each other. Imagine if we spent that same energy fighting for our shared goals of full sovereignty, economic independence, and the housing, education and healthcare services our people need and deserve.

I am not suggesting that we should all agree with each other all the time, but I am asking that we begin to treat each other and our differing views with more respect. We have spent so much of our history fighting for respect for our sovereign nation; however, we often forget to treat ourselves and each other with the same respect that we sought for so long.

Above all else, I ask that we move forward with Pride, Unity, Respect and Love (PURL). There will always be challenges, and there will always be people who wish to prevent us from reaching our full potential. But no matter how daunting the task, or how high the obstacle, we must always approach it with Pride, Unity, Respect and Love in our hearts. With this as our guiding principle, there is nothing that we cannot overcome.

Mashpee Represented at Gathering of Nations



Mashpee Wampanoag 2008-2009 Princess Talia Landry, show here with her cousin, Kevin Frye Jr., attended the Gathering of Nations Powwow in New Mexico in April along with over 20 other tribal members. Mashpee was well represented!

Billy Peters Returns to Mashpee for His Final Resting Place



Condolences to the family of William James Peters, 53, who went on his Spirit Journey, April 19, 2009.

He was the son of John “Slow Turtle” Peters and Barbara “Morning Star” Avant. He leaves his wife, Donna, of Seattle; sisters Anita and Ramona Peters of Cape Cod; Auquaya and Audaquay of Boston; Kyla Ward of New Hampshire; brothers Jim and Ray of Cape Cod; Scott of Rhode Island; Carl of New Jersey; Robin of Sweden; Aunts Amelia Bingham, Muriel McKinney and Ann Brown of Mashpee and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

His Aunt Amelia was particularly devoted to him during his illness.

Some 28 years ago, the Tribe sent Billy with Lincoln Hendricks to the Lummi Aquaculture School in Bellingham, Washington to study shellfish propagation. They apparently fell in love with the environment, in particular Puget Sound, as neither returned until now.

A ceremony was held on South Cape Beach in Mashpee on Saturday, May 16th.

Young Tribal Member Tragically Lost

By Melissa Hill



Our young Joshua Robert Lopes, son of Ronelda D. Hendricks and John G. Lopes Sr., born on February 5, 1991, left us on Sunday April 12, 2009 as a result of a car accident.

He leaves us with memories of his energetic personality and his ability to always make us smile. A very close relative, Leah Teixeira, reminisced about all of the fun times she had with her cousin Josh.

“I remember we used to always go to teen dances together and he would love to dance. Everyone would circle around him and watch,” Leah said.

Josh was also extremely physically active. He played ultimate frisbee and loved to skateboard. He made up his own skateboarding tricks and this year his frisbee team made it to finals.

Josh was a part of a very large family and lived with seven of his siblings. He was a great role model to his brothers and sisters as well as the people whose lives he touched. His eternal spirit will forever burn in our hearts.

The family has started a Scholarship Fund in Josh’s name. Donations can be made at any Citizens Bank toward the Joshua Robert Lopes Scholarship which will be made available to any students planning to further their education in college.

Grant to Fund Restoration of Popponessett Bay

Recently the tribe received a two-year \$200K grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which will be used to begin the Popponessett Bay Restoration Project which has been degraded by nitrates. The ultimate goal of the project is to remove approximately 5,000 kilograms of nitrogen from the bay, including the waters near Punkhorn Point and Little Thatch Island, with the help of some organic processes as a result of restoring the bay with oysters. Oysters not only filter, but also essentially feed on nitrates found in the water. When the oysters grow to a harvestable size, in approximately 2 years, they will be extracted from the water along with the nitrates. Ultimately, the bay will become a more suitable wildlife habitat, which can lead to the regeneration of eelgrass. Furthermore, the funding will also be used to employ an aqua culturist and three part-time field workers. For more information please contact Quan Tobey, Director of the Natural Resource Department, 508.419.6017 ext.603



Future Tribal Health Careers Get A Jump Start

Meet this year's Pathways to Health Care Careers class at Mashpee High School: Front row- Gail Melix (Coordinator and co-instructor), Adriana Lopez, Imari Washington, Lore Jackson, Amber Tubbs, Kayla Gomes, Mai-Ling Chui, Laura Sprague. Back row: Mike Hurley, Jenna Tavares, Danielle McMahon, Taryn Medina, Ebony Gunn, Kayla Lopes, Katelyn Crawley, Meaghan Galvin, Raha Maalin, and Aphrodite Purdy (co-instructor). This 12 week class, now in its third year at Mashpee High School, introduces students to health professions through guest speakers, visits to local hospitals, Otis Air Base, and fire departments, computer lab research and in-class lessons and hands-on demonstrations.



Students are joined by Council member Cheryl Frye-Cromwell for a graduation ceremony on the last day of class.



Students visit the Otis Air Base



Anne Foxx is honored!
Photo by Jason Wilkins

Anne Foxx-Whitford Honored by MCNAA

Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness celebrated its 20th anniversary on Sunday, March 29, 2009 in the Ballroom at the Holiday Inn in Randolph, MA. During the event, a surprise honoring ceremony was held for one of MCNAAs long-time Advisory Committee Member and supporters - Anne Foxx-Whitford, a Mashpee Wampanoag who has been associated with the organization since its inception.

According to the MCNAA President Burne Stanley-Peters, "Anne has been a great source of moral support, inspiration, and help to the organization as a whole. It was wonderful to have her brother Vincent there since her late brother Maurice, who attended this event every year, is no longer with us."

Anne's children and some of her grandchildren were there as well and came prepared to present "grandmother" with flowers. MCNAA officials presented Anne with a Pendleton blanket, an award recognition plaque, a photo display board of her with family and friends, and a handcrafted necklace accompanied by a sage bundle. Anne's husband Emil (Raining Horse), Mother Bear of the Mashpee Women's Medicine Society, and Chief Windsong Blake of the Assonet Band of Wampanoags had kind stories to tell about Anne. The Iron River Singers and the Wolf Cry Singers were on hand to sing and hand drum. Some family members and a few traditional men stood close behind her as Anne was honored during this special event.

WIA Department

The WIA Department's main purpose is to support our Native American community on their path to self-sufficiency through education, job training, job development, economic development and personal improvement. The weekly WIA HOT PICKS highlights local employment opportunities in an accessible format to be presented to our tribal community on our tribal web site.

Attention all WIA participants: please be advised, intake packets must be received before July 1, 2009 to receive financial assistance in the next year. Funds are limited and are allocated on a first come first serve basis. We are here to help any tribe members who may be in search of employment and may need assistance with applications, resume preparation, interviewing tips and much more.

The WIA Department has recently attended a conference in Boston to prepare for The CCDF Child Care Block Grant. This Department has other great plans for our near future, including a Youth Summer Program, and the Summer at Sea Scholarship!

For more information please contact: Director Angela Shwom or Administrative Assistant Sadie Myrie at the Tribal office, 508-477-0208 or by E-mail at Ashwom@mwtribe.com or Smyrie@mwtribe.com.

Are You Interested in Joining the MBTA? The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority invites you to learn more about the upcoming 2009 Job Lottery, which will open in August 2009. All applicants must be at least 18 years old. All lottery positions require a High School Diploma or GED and the ability to comprehend, communicate and respond to instructions, orders, signs, notices, inquiries, etc. in English. All selected candidates must pass a qualifying written exam in English, a Criminal Offender Record Information check, and physical exam including drug/alcohol screens. For a list of frequently asked questions about the 2009 MBTA Job Lottery, please visit www.mbta.com.

For applications or more information please contact: Director Angela Shwom at the Tribal office, 508-477-0208 or by E-mail at Ashwom@mwtribe.com or Smyrie@mwtribe.com.

Public Hearing Notice:

CCFD Child Care Block Grant

Friday, May 29, 2009, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

A hearing will be conducted in the Main Building of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, by Angela Shwom of the Workforce Investment Act Department. Children are welcome to attend! Homemade refreshments will be served. The complete CCDF Child Care Block Grant Plan/Application will be presented. If our Tribe's Application for this Grant is accepted, we will be able to financially support our own Child Care Voucher Program. Any questions or concerns, please contact Angela Shwom @ 508-477-0208, Ext. #206.



The Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP) will be holding its 3rd Annual Immersion Camp from July 31st to August 2nd at the tribal council grounds and is seeking bids for a cook for the weekend. For more information including the details for the request for bid, visit the website at www.wlrp.org.

The Tribe is looking for a qualified candidate to sit on the Cape Cod Commission's Native American seat. This regional planning board meets twice a month with additional meetings sometime required. All inquiries should contact the present CCC representative, Treasurer Mark Harding at 508.477.0208 or mharding@mwtribe.com

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Tribal eNews Option

Do you want to contribute to a tribal effort to conduct ourselves in a more sustainable manner? You can choose to receive the newsletter by email.

These documents will also be made available on our tribal website, www.mashpeewampanogtribe.com where they will be archived making current and past issues and important posted tribal information available at any time.

Choosing the email option will not only expedite the way you receive news and information about the tribe, but it will also enable the tribe to conserve paper and save money on printing and mailing costs.

We understand that not all tribal members will be able to

participate in this initiative, particularly those who do not have regular access to a computer, and will gladly continue to mail all communication to tribal members who prefer to receive printed correspondence.

Tribal members who are interested in taking part in the email option must inform us in writing of the preference to receive information at their specified email account. If you wish to suspend the email option and begin receiving communication from the tribe by regular mail, you may do so at any time.

Please use the following form to make your request and mail it to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Attention Council Member Selena Jonas, Post Office Box 1048, Mashpee, MA, 02649.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal eNews Opt In Form

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