



Nashauonk Mittark™



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May 2016

DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY

Chairman's Column



Dear Tribal Family,

During this season of renewal, there is much to celebrate within our Tribe.

Of course, with an economic development project of that magnitude it requires a great deal of discussion, focus, planning and execution. But as I wrote in my column last month, we should never lose sight of the fact that preserving the ancient traditions and way of life of those who came before us holds far more value than all the poker chips in the world.

Yes, our songs and sage; drumming and dancing; the vocalization of our language; the education of our youth; caring for our Elders; the preservation of our natural resources; sharing Good Medicine are each of infinite value.

We are in the midst of tribal New Year celebrations, which began in April with Herring Day. No only do "April showers bring May flowers" but it's also that time of year when the herring run comes alive. This year was special because we had the co-founder of the 1491s comedy group and national organizer for the Indigenous Environmental Network, Dallas Goldtooth, celebrating with us.

The tribal New Year festivities will continue with our annual celebration on May 14, at the Meeting House. This year, the organizers are requesting that Tribal members with new born babies attend so those precious little ones can be introduced to the community. With the many tribal funerals we've had over the past year, it is important for us to celebrate new life.

Our largest traditional celebration is also on the horizon. Our powwow commit-

(Continued on page 3)

Making Way for First Light Resort & Casino

At a groundbreaking ceremony on April 5, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe took the first step in the construction of the historic tribe's billion-dollar First Light Resort & Casino.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell and Taunton Mayor Thomas Hoye were joined by tribal leaders; city and state officials; as well as hundreds of tribal citizens and city residents to celebrate the official start of construction. Cheers resounded as an excavator-claw swung into

action to begin the demolition of one the existing buildings on the tribe's reservation land in Taunton - the future site of First Light Resort & Casino.

The demolition work - in conjunction with \$30 million of off-site traffic improvements - will clear the way for the construction of what will be the state's first destination resort casino. One of largest economic revitalization projects in southeastern Massachusetts in recent years, a portion of the casino is set to open for business by the summer of 2017.

(Continued on page 4)



Dallas Goldtooth Engages Tribe in Climate Discussions

If you were fortunate enough to attend one of the two workshops hosted by Dallas Goldtooth, environmental activist and co-founder of the 1491's comedy group, you would have seen a young leader in Indian Country with a passion for protecting our environment and sharing his knowledge with others. Dallas facilitated a digital media and environmental activism workshop on Monday, April 18 and led a panel discussion on indigenous environmental

issues the following day.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Administrator David ThunderEagle, Education Director Dr. Nitana Hicks Greendeer, Natural Resources Director Dr. Casey Thornbrugh, Senior Planner Danielle Hill, Tribal Action Plan Coordinator Hope Shwom, Youth Director Tracy Kelley, and Community Relations Manager Trish Keliinui organized Dallas' visit as a way to shed light on the many environmental issues impact-

(Continued on page 3)

Events Calendar

New Events

May 8 is Mother's Day
No General Membership Meeting

May 14 - 11:00 a.m.
Wampanoag New Year Celebration, *Old Indian Meeting House*

June 3 - 11:00 a.m.
Neekun Summer Program Registration Closes

June 18 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Strawberry Thanksgiving, *Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum*

July 1 to 3
Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow, *Cape Cod Fair Grounds*

Weekly Events

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

Mondays - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Craft Night, *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*

Thursdays - 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Youth Dance & Drum Class, *MWTCGC*

Fridays - 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
Pre School Language Hour, *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*

Trish Keliinui Elected to Mashpee Chamber of Commerce Board

Trish Keliinui, community relations manager for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, has been elected to the Mashpee Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

"I was humbled to receive notice that I was elected to the chamber board of directors," said Trish. "Our tribe and my family have a wonderful history of supporting the community and the local businesses that thrive within it. I'm looking forward to bringing my perspective not only as a citizen of Mashpee but also as a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to the Mashpee Chamber of Commerce."

In addition to her work with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Trish is also a member of the Mashpee TV Board of Directors

and the Mashpee Pops Committee Board of Directors.



Stephanie Sfiridis



What takes most students 3 plus years to accomplish, Stephanie Sfiridis has done in just 24 months. In May Stephanie will have completed her Juris Doctorate degree with a focus on Federal Indian Law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. She will be walking at her commencement with a handful of other native students, but Stephanie is the only student from the Northeast. She was also presented with the Excellence for the Future Award from CALI (Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction) for achieving the highest grade in her Federal Indian Law class. Congratulations Stephanie on your success.

Shawna Newcomb



Congratulations to Shawna E. Newcomb who will be graduating in May 2016 from Suffolk University. Shawna will be receiving her Bachelor of Science in Journalism with majors in Broadcast Journalism and Political Science. She currently broadcasting through Suffolk University's station on NECN and is completing an internship at the Statehouse. Shawna has also been accepted for a fellowship in North Carolina at WRAL news station. She is the daughter of Donna Shannon and Errol F. Newcomb. Congratulations Shawna. Your family and tribe are very 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 Nashauonk Mittark. Please contact Trish Keliinui at trish.keliinui@mwtribe.com.

Earth Day Clean Up at 55 Acres



With the ceremonial grounds at 55 Acres in need of attention and repairs, a group of tribal citizens, headed up by Tribal Council Secretary Marie Stone and Brian Weeden, decided to fix up the ceremonial grounds on Earth Day.

“Like all of our relations, our Mother Earth and Tribe require attention and healing,” said Secretary Stone. “Getting together at 55 Acres was a first step to reconnecting with the land and our tribal members. We connected with each other while raking, cleanup debris and fixing the cedar posts that had rotted away.”

The cleanup was also a way to ensure the sacred grounds and traditions remain here for future generations of Mashpee Wampanoag people.



Dallas Goldtooth Visits Tribe (continued)

ing us on both a local and global level. The workshops also empowered the participants to start creating a dialogue and content that can be shared over social media to strengthen awareness around environmental issues.

“Getting Dallas to visit the Tribe, host a workshop, facilitate an evening panel discussion, and to attend our Herring Run Day event was a huge bonus for operations and the community as a whole,” said Casey. “Danielle and I got the ball rolling on this after a chance discussion at a USET conference. From there we were able to get other departments on board and work with Dallas’ schedule to develop a truly unique learning opportunity for the community. It could not have come together any better.”

In addition to Dallas, the panel discussion on Tuesday, April 19 included Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Ramona Peters, traditionalist with a degree in Botany Earl “Chiefly” Mills and Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Natural Resources Commission Vernon “Buddy” Pocknett. Dallas opened the meeting with a sharing of information he has collected through his travels and work and then allowed the conversation to flow into a very powerful discussion about the impact global warming is having in our region and the effects it’s having on our fish and shellfish.

Dallas is well respected throughout the nation and abroad for his ability to draw attention to environmental issues. In December 2015, Dallas Goldtooth helped to bring 50 Indigenous people from across North America to Paris, France for the UN Climate Talks but left disappointed in the final agreement reached.

“The agreement doesn’t mention fossil fuels. It does not commit countries to keep global temperature rise below two degrees Celsius,” said Dallas. “It doesn’t even fully recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples and how these rights need to be accounted



for in mitigating climate change. I cannot clap for an agreement that fails to address climate change with the degree of action required.”

Although leaving Paris disappointing, Dallas continues to travel across Turtle Island fighting for Mother Earth. Mashpee was fortunate enough to have been able to host this energetic activist.

Dallas gets his passion for climate justice from his father, IEN Executive Director Tom Goldtooth, who visited Mashpee in the 1970’s and drummed with the Wakeby Lake Drummers. Tom started attending the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 21st Conference of the Parties in 1999.

Dallas Goldtooth is a co-founder of the 1491s comedy group and a national organizer for the Indigenous Environmental Network. He is a digital media producer and a dedicated organizer. A nationally-known public speaker, activist, performer and event emcee, Dallas has traveled across Turtle Island aka North America sharing story, entertainment and knowledge. He is Dakota and Dine.

Chairman’s Column (continued)

tee has us on track to celebrate our annual homecoming on July 1, 2, & 3. This year’s theme is “Celebrating Our Circle ~ Breaking the Cycle of Addiction” – a sobering rally cry in the face of one of the biggest threats to our Circle

Lastly, I think another event worthy of celebrating is the Criminal Jurisdiction on Indian Land Workshop we hosted in April. The workshop provided the FBI, the Massachusetts State Police, the Barnstable County Sheriff’s Department

and local law enforcement a chance to learn about tribal law enforcement and the laws we have in place to ensure the protection and safety of Tribal Citizens and visitors on our land.

What a powerful indication it was that shows we have, in fact, re-established sovereignty over our lands!

Kutâputunumuw,
Cedric Cromwell
Qaqeemashq (*Running Bear*)

Resort & Casino on the Horizon *(continued)*



“As People of the First Light, we are here to inaugurate the beginning of a strong economic partnership with the City of Taunton as well as the first tangible step in building an economic base for our tribal nation,” Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell said.

“The Wampanoag people have lived off this land for 12,000 years,” Cromwell noted. “And though some doubted we would ever see this day come to pass, here we are – on track to open a first-class resort and be the first to market.”

Mayor Thomas Hoye characterized the project as a win for the tribe, the city and

state.

“Not only will this help sustain the Tribe and their magnificent culture for generations to come, it will also provide a tremendous economic jolt to the proud City of Taunton and surrounding region, as well as boost revenues to the Commonwealth by as much as \$2 billion dollars,” Hoye said, noting the 1,000 construction jobs and 2,600 permanent jobs First Light Resort & Casino will create.

In addition to the groundbreaking ceremony, tribal leaders also announced an upcoming job fair to be held in Taunton to introduce tribal citizens and area residents to the

employment opportunities that will be available – from construction jobs to resort & casino careers. The job fair will be held May 14 at the Holiday Inn in Taunton at 700 Myles Standish Blvd. from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Once construction is complete First Light Resort & Casino will include:

- 3,000 slot machines
- 150 table games
- 40 poker tables
- Fine dining restaurants; food court with international buffet; and 24-hour cafe
- Three 15-story, 300-room luxury hotels
- Lounge and performance stage
- Indoor pool
- 9 retail stores
- 31,000 square-foot multi-purpose function room
- 5 meeting rooms
- Spa and water park



Tribe Completes Memorandum of Understanding with Barnstable County Sheriff

On April 14, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Barnstable County Sheriff completed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for law enforcement services. The MOU creates a smooth transition from state and local jurisdiction over to tribal and federal jurisdiction over Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Trust Lands and the continuous availability of law enforcement services to all citizens, Indian and non-Indian, on Trust Lands.

Through the MOU, the Tribe affirmed its right to exercise the full extent of its civil and criminal jurisdiction over its Trust Lands and its Tribal citizens and other members of federally recognized Indian tribes in accordance with federal law. It also memorialized the Sheriff’s and Tribe’s agreement for the provision of law enforcement assistance from the County of Barnstable to

the Tribe.

Under the agreement, the Sheriff agrees to cooperate and provide law enforcement assistance to the Tribe upon request of Tribal law enforcement and when resources permit. This may include things like joint task forces, services during special events or providing support during investigations. It also notes that the Tribe agrees to cooperate and provide a prompt decision to requests for consent for the entry of Sheriff Deputies in the event that a crime occurs on Tribal Lands that fall under the jurisdiction of the State or during a fresh pursuit by Sheriff Deputies.

Tribal law enforcement officers are the only persons authorized to provide consent to the Sheriff under this MOU.



Tribe received two vehicles for tribal law enforcement on trust lands

Gaming Authority to Host Job Fair in Taunton on May 14

On the heels of a successful job fair held on April 9 at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center for tribal citizens, the Tribe's Gaming Authority is hosting a second job and vendor fair on May 14 that is open to the public.

This fair, like the one held on April 9, will provide information for prospective employees as well as local businesses, owners, operators, principals and sales and marketing representatives interested in supplying goods and services to First Light Resort & Casino. It will be held on May 14 at the Holiday Inn in Taunton, 700 Myles Standish Blvd, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Transportation from the Community and Government Center to the Holiday Inn in Taunton will be available for any community members interested in attending this job fair and/or was unable to attend the job fair on April 9. In addition, ample parking is available at and behind the Holiday Inn.

The destination resort casino, a portion of which is on schedule to open for business by the summer of 2017, will generate 1,000 construction jobs and over 2,600 perma-

nent jobs.

"A development of this magnitude will generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity that will be a boon to Tribal citizens, area residents, and businesses across southeastern Massachusetts," said Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman and Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Gaming Authority President Cedric Cromwell.

"We are working closely with our Tribe's employment office and local union officials. With thousands of jobs being created, there will be an abundance of opportunities for good paying work in the building and operation of First Light Resort & Casino. There will also be a need for vendor services," Cromwell said. "This job and vendor fair will begin the process of putting the right people in the right place to benefit from a first-class project."

Taunton Mayor Thomas Hoye noted how the diligent work of tribal leaders and city officials over the past several years to bring this project to fruition is ready to deliver on its promise.

"One of my top priorities has been to help bring economic revitalization to our

great city. First Light Resort & Casino is going to do just that. It is bringing thousands of jobs and millions in additional revenue for the City to spend on vital services," Hoye said. "The spin-off benefits for Taunton area businesses will be enormous as well. This is an exciting moment for us."

Those interested in attending the job and vendor fair are asked to RSVP Melissa Hill at info@firstlightresort.com.



TERO Director Angela Shwom at the April 9 Job Fair for Tribal Citizens

Community Development Corporation Seeking Board of Directors

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council is seeking to appoint at least nine (9) Directors to the Mashpee Wampanoag Community Development Corporation Board of Directors for terms of up to three (3) years each. Service on the Board of Directors is a volunteer and unpaid position.

Required Qualifications of a Director:

1. Duly Enrolled Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Member.
2. No person who has been convicted of a felony in the preceding five (5) years of consideration of eligibility shall sit on the Board.
3. No person who has been convicted of any crime involving theft, fraud, embezzlement or conversion of money or property shall sit on the Board.
4. No employee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs shall be eligible to serve as a Director during the time of such employment.
5. 4-Year Degree and/or equivalent work experience.

Duties of a Director:

1. Regularly attends board meetings and important related meetings.

2. Makes serious commitment to participate actively in Board work.
3. Volunteers for and willingly accepts assignments and completes them thoroughly and on time.
4. Stays informed about Board matters, prepares themselves well for meetings, and reviews and comments on minutes and reports.
5. Gets to know other Directors and builds a collegial working relationship that contributes to consensus.
6. Is an active participant in the Board's annual evaluation and planning efforts.
7. Participates in fund raising for the organization (nonprofit only).
8. Execution of an annual conflict of interest declaration.

Tribal members interested in serving on the Board of Directors of the Mashpee Wampanoag Community Development Corporation may submit a letter of interest and resume to the Tribal Council by emailing Tribal Council Secretary Marie Stone at: MStone@mwtribe.com by April 30, 2016 at 5:00 PM (ET).

Neekun Summer Day Program Registration

The Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Program Department is pleased to announce registration for Neekun Summer Program (formerly Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Day Program (MWYDP)) opened Friday, April 22 and closes Friday, June 3. This is a full day summer program for youth ages 5-12. All youth must be 5 before the first day of program.

The purpose of this program is to provide a safe place for children that will enrich their lives culturally, socially, and academically. MWYDP will achieve this by implementing three focus areas which include culture, healthy lifestyles, and academic retention.

Age: 5-12

Monday - Friday

August 1st-August 26th

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Mashpee Wampanoag Community and Government Center

35 Slots

\$80 for four week program

Honoring Our Herring Day

The Honoring Our Herring event brought together youth, Tribal elders and educators from across the Commonwealth. Even though the guest of honor, the herring, were not swimming up river on that day the day remained filled with traditional ceremonies, herring related activities and food made in the style of the 17th century.

"Having such a wide range of guests at our event was a real treat," said Cultural Program Developer at the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum Kitty Hendricks-Miller. "It just so happened that the Herring Day and a program we were running with the Teachers on the Estuary and the Wampanoag Circle of Life fell on the same day. It was a huge bonus to provide a group of teachers from as far north as Southern New Hampshire a glimpse into one of our educational programs. We're always looking for ways to better inform other educators and allow them to go back to their classroom and share our knowledge with the children they teach."



Other activities included a crossword and word search game, herring print making, herring coloring books, making herring pendants with clay, gardening and a Wôpanâak scavenger hunt. The event also passed on some oral traditions with Aunt Joan Avant Tavares telling herring stories inside the Museum and social songs being sung outside.

Another big draw for this event was the food. Kitty, Museum staff and volunteer cooks from the community prepared a mix of contemporary and traditional foods made in the style of the 17th century. Kitty prepared traditional venison stew that showcased our local bounty. Other dishes included a chowder, sandwiches and mac and cheese provided by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Language Department.

"I felt it was important to provide dishes that were prepared with ingredients only available to our ancestors in this region during this time of the year," said Kitty. "I think everyone, including Dallas Goldtooth of the 1491's, appreciated the traditional component to our menu of food."

Some of the ingredients available were venison provided by Tony Perry, white acorn flour from Paula Peters and of course herring and quahogs.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum is located at 414 Main Street Mashpee (next to the herring run) and is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you are interested in visiting the Museum or learning more about upcoming events and activities, please call (508) 477-9339 or send Kitty an email at ghendricks@mwtribe.com.



Even without the Herring swimming up stream, there was still plenty of Herring at the event. Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Natural Resources Department Field Assistant Tony Perry provided the guests with a special Herring presentation. Tony explained to the youth and special guests how to identify male and female herring and if the female herring is carrying eggs. Tony also walked everyone through the process of scaling the fish, filleting it and removing the roe. The youth even got to do some hands-on-activities with plastic knives.



New Raffle for Alice May Lopez Memorial



On Saturday, April 23 the Alice May Lopez Memorial Statue Fundraising Committee began selling tickets for a new raffle that is going on now through July 4. The new raffle, which has 4 prizes, was rolled out during a pasta dinner fundraiser for the Alice May Lopez Statue.

Tickets are being sold for \$5 each or you may purchase five tickets for \$20. Prizes include Red Sox vs Yankees Tickets, a queen size Pendleton blanket, a 16" x 20" wampum cross by artist Carol Lopez and a \$100 gift certificate to the Dream Catcher Shop. If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact Carol Lopez at (508) 505-6693.

All funds raised from the raffle tickets will benefit the Alice May Lopez Memorial Statue Fund. The committee is raising \$100,000 to create a life-sized bronze statue in memory of Alice May Lopez who passed away unexpectedly at the age of 49 in 2011. Alice was the founder and first director of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Housing Department.



95th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow

July 1-3, 2016
Cape Cod Fair Grounds

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Wampanoag New Year Celebration

The Old Indian Meeting House Committee wishes to invite the community and new born babies (for welcoming into the Tribe) to the annual Wampanoag New Year Celebration to be held at the Old Indian Meeting House at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 14. Traditional regalia requested. Following the service everyone is invited to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center for drumming and singing, potluck luncheon, and Native crafts.



Housing Workshop on Residential Leases

On Saturday, April 2, The MWT Housing Department and Elisa Wilson, Program Director from WE CAN hosted a workshop entitled Overview of Residential Leases. The presenter, Attorney Jeni Landers covered a variety of topics important to renters. Among these were the rights and responsibilities of both the tenant and the landlord. For example, did you know?

Landlords can bill tenants for water if the property meets the law's requirements for sub metering and water conservation.

Security deposits must be deposited by the landlord in a Massachusetts bank, in an account that collects interest.

The renter has a responsibility to pay rent, follow the rules agreed upon with the landlord, and accept responsibility for any damage beyond "normal wear and tear."

For the landlord's part, they must offer an dwelling that is safe, clean, and in compliance with the Massachusetts Sanitary Code, and must live up to any promises in the lease or rental agreement.

Knowing what to look for before you sign the lease or rental agreement can save you a lot of time and money. Always know your rights, before you put pen to paper.

- Marcelle Vigneau, Program Assistant

Peacemaking: How Important Is It?

On April 9th the Peacemaking training took place that was over shadowed by the Job Fair. One was beneficial to one's livelihood; the other was good for one's soul. The Job Fair offered the possibility of employment to nourish oneself and family - a very basic need on planet Earth. The Peacemaking training was small and could be missed if not sought out and would provide healing for the community. During the Peacemaking training, Tribal members learned how to be instruments for healing that would benefit all members of the Community. Many who sought to participate in the Peacemaking training were unable to attend because they had to work tables at the Job Fair that had been rescheduled for the same day as the Peacemaking training. Despite the Job Fair, 15 to 18 tribal members were able to be present at the Peacemaking training. Initially about 30 had signed up. Tribal members learned about the cycle of life; the healthy cycle which shows a good path and the unhealthy cycle which is more prevalent today. It taught us what it is to be humans and what more we need to learn. We were taught that being a Peacemaker was a life path not a sometime behavior. Drumming and singing reminded us of our roots and who we are as a people and our responsibility to each other; we are all part of one.



Story telling gave valuable lessons and left us pondering the Truth. All this was done with the Job Fair outside the door clamoring for attention. The second day of the event which was Sunday, April 10th, the Peacemaker trainer was scheduled to bring the wisdom of Peace and Healing to the Tribal Body, but on this day the Tribal Budget swallowed up the meeting and the tribal body missed valuable teachings.



Housing Department Update: Here to Help

Our quote for the month of May is “Out of difficulties, grow miracles.” From our ancestors to today’s tribal citizens, our people have shown that even in the most difficult times we will persist, keep our heads held high and succeed. It’s this inner drive that has allowed us to remain strong on our homeland and serves our team as a reminder that through our good work we can help families find their miracle.

You always have the right to choose. “Now” is always the most important moment! Decide to see something different. It is as possible for you as it is for anyone else!

Okay, so let’s jump into the numbers for this month.

Service	# Served	Dollars Spent
Rental Subsidy (annual lottery).....	15 Citizens.....	\$ 12,625.00
Rental Assistance.....	3 Citizens.....	\$ 4,413.00
Closing Cost Assistance.....	0 Citizens.....	\$ 0.00
Foreclosure Assistance.....	2 Citizens.....	\$ 5,890.00
Eviction Prevention.....	2 Citizens.....	\$ 3,075.00
Sanitation IHS (Open).....	5 Citizen.....	\$ 51,288.00
Home Rehabilitation (lottery).....	0 Citizens.....	\$ 0.00

What services do you want to see from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Housing Department? Do you have comments? Questions? Suggestions? Are there specific workshops/trainings you want? Keep a lookout for a MWT Housing Need’s Assessment in the upcoming Mittark. Your input is so very important to us. Gaining feedback from the community is one of the most effective ways we can improve on the services we provide and ensure we’re providing the support needed.

Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Commission meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Tribal Council Chambers at the Community and Government Center. Please join us!

The SHINE Program

Tribal Health will have a SHINE Counselor available to assist our members in providing unbiased health insurance information and assistance with:

- Medicare Part D and other prescription drug programs
- Compare Medigaps to Medicare Advantage plans and their costs and benefits
- Assist with billing problems and appeals
- Prevent consumers from buying unnecessary or duplicate coverage
- Help prepare enrollment forms and applications for assistance

SHINE counselors help seniors and disabled adults understand their rights and benefits under Medicare and other health insurance and related low income assistance programs. All information is kept strictly confidential.

For more information please contact Wendy Pocknett in the Tribal Health Department at wpocknett@mwtribe.com or (508) 477-0208 x166.

Housing Department Update: Here to Help

Few Tribal citizens realize that the Housing Department’s service area reaches out to citizens residing in five counties which are Barnstable, Bristol, Norfolk, Plymouth and Suffolk. Services such as Rental Assistance, Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance, Foreclosure and Legal Assistance, Eviction Prevention Assistance, Rental Subsidy and Home Rehabilitation are funded by U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Native American Programs (ONAP), through the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA).

As such, these grants carry income restrictions to what are considered “low-income” families and individuals. According to Melissa Phillips, Assistant Director of Housing for Tribe, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s Housing Commission has adopted the “80% rule” which means funds are eligible to members of a federally recognized Tribe in our five county service area who earn up to 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) of the respective county in which they reside. These income guidelines are updated by HUD on an annual basis. Here are the recently released income guidelines for 2016:

Income Guidelines

	Persons in Household							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Barnstable	\$47,550	\$54,350	\$61,150	\$67,900	\$73,350	\$78,800	\$84,200	\$89,650
Bristol	\$33,000	\$37,700	\$42,400	\$47,100	\$50,900	\$54,650	\$58,450	\$62,200
Norfolk	\$46,000	\$52,600	\$59,150	\$65,700	\$71,000	\$76,250	\$81,500	\$86,750
Plymouth	\$46,000	\$52,600	\$59,150	\$65,700	\$71,000	\$76,250	\$81,500	\$86,750
Suffolk	\$51,150	\$58,450	\$65,750	\$73,050	\$78,900	\$84,750	\$90,600	\$96,450

Service Area



There is one exception to the income eligibility guidelines for the Housing Department’s services and that is for the Home Sanitation program which has no income restrictions. Please contact Melissa Phillips, Assistant Director of Housing melissaphillips@mwtribe.com should you have any questions.

Many Paths to Recovery - Vivitrol

If you are interested in learning more about Vivitrol and to learn about OBOT/MAT programs that administer this treatment, please contact the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit 508-477-6967 and speak to a clinical therapist for consultation or on-going support. PumukQien Collins ext 2562 and Nadine Phillips-Smart ext 6965.

What is vivitrol?

Vivitrol is used to treat alcohol and opioid (heroin, pain medication) addiction.

Vivitrol, also known as Naltrexone, is a 'blocker'. It blocks certain receptors in the brain including opiate receptors.

How does Vivitrol work on both alcohol and opioids?

Vivitrol works by blocking the effect that alcohol or opioids have on the brain. Vivitrol is an opioid receptor antagonist, which means it blocks brain receptors that produces feelings of pleasure when alcohol and opioids are consumed. Over time, it reduces urges and cravings, as it changes how the brain responds to alcohol and drug consumption.

Vivitrol is non-addictive.

How is Vivitrol administered?

Vivitrol is an extended-release injection ('the shot'), given once every month. Most patients start off with the pill-format of Vivitrol, Naltrexone, for about two weeks to see if there are any adverse reactions. Once completed, then you can move onto the injection.

Benefits of Vivitrol:

Vivitrol decreases your cravings of alcohol and opioids. Most individuals like Vivitrol because it is once/month injection. When used as prescribed, over time it will help to sustain recovery and decrease dependence on alcohol and opioids. To increase the benefits of Vivitrol and sustaining recovery, treatment should include additional support services including counseling.

When can I start Vivitrol?

There are several outpatient treatment programs and OBOT (Office-Based Opioid Treatment)/MAT (Medication-Assisted Treatment) throughout Massachusetts that administers Vivitrol.

It is important to meet with a provider for consultation. Depending on your addiction, you may be asked to enter into a detoxification program (detox) before starting Vivitrol.

Case Management

Our case management services are designed to advocate, coordinate, plan and implement client driven recovery based treatment. We provide individualized treatment plans, supportive services and referrals during the rehabilitation process while providing family members with the appropriate tools to assist their loved ones whom are suffering.

Recovery Coaches are individuals who assist people along the path of recovery. Recovery Coaches serve as a crucial role in helping individuals and their families with removing barriers/obstacles to achieve recovery, by serving as a personal guide/mentor for people in various stages of recovery. Recovery Coaches are not therapists and do not provide clinical guidance. Rather, they offer a strength-based support system for individuals seeking recovery from alcohol, drugs and other addictions by offering essential tools and skills.

In this department we also assist with:

- Advocacy/Outreach (in any capacity)
- Treatment center placement
 - » Detox/Long-term treatment
- Sober-Living Placement/cost of Sober Living
- Care-Packages for clients going into treatment
- Transportation Services
- Creating Relapse Prevention Plans/ Individualized Treatment Plans
- Court Advocacy for Clients
- Seek support and trainings for prevention/intervention for families
 - » Section 35 (County Court System)
 - » Family Counseling, Ala-non, Ala-Teen
- Referrals (internally and externally)

For more information about case management services please contact Tribal Health Contracted Substance Abuse Case Manager Alexandra Lopes-Pocknett alexandra.lopes-pocknett@mwtribe.com or call her at (508) 477-0208 x 162 .

EPrep Department Getting Prepped

Emergency Preparedness Planner Nelson Andrews Jr., and Emergency Preparedness Outreach Coordinator Ann Marie Askew attended the first ever Tribal Training week at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama. The free all Tribal Nation/Alaskan Native training week was held from March 21 to March 26 and included six programs that were specifically developed and offered to tribal emergency responders.

Nelson and Ann Marie attended the Incident Command: Capabilities, Planning and Response Actions for All Hazards program. This program was designed to provide management-level responders, like Nelson and Ann Marie, with tools to evaluate a threat, identify resources and develop an incident response plan and incident action plan.

"The issues we face and resources at our disposal are unique to our reservation. Having a training program that is specific to tribal responders is extremely valuable." said Nelson.

The CDP develops, tests and delivers training to state, local and tribal emer-

gency responders. They provide on-site and mobile training at the performance, management and planning levels. The CDP facilitates the delivery of training by the training partners of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

For more information about the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Preparedness Department please call (508) 477-5800 x13 or x15.





Annual Budget Passed

I am pleased to inform you that after months of painstaking work by Tribal Council and Department directors, the 5th annual budget under this administration was passed overwhelmingly by Tribal Citizens who attended the budget presentation at our monthly general membership meeting on April 10.

Of the 119 ballots cast, 88 voted in favor while 31 voted no.

As I noted in my budget letter that was sent out to Tribal households last month, this budget prioritizes funding for housing, healthcare, education, health & human services, Elder and youth services, as well as our food pantry. The model we use - a "wrap-around" services approach - is designed for Tribal Citizens who may have needs in more than one area to tap into all that our Tribal government offers in a much easier way.

This budget also includes resources needed for our own Tribal public safety officers, as we implement Tribal law and order. To do that in a fully accountable and responsible way necessitates we develop and manage our relationships with the Town of Mashpee, City of Taunton, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts. One example of that being the funding

needed to execute our Inter-Governmental Agreement which details the infrastructure and traffic improvements needed in order for our First Light Resort & Casino to move forward, as required by federal environmental law.

As I reflect back on the past year, I am amazed at how much has been accomplished, culminating in re-establishing our Sovereign Land.

And now that we have accomplished that, we are fully focused on the forward advancement of our economic development plans, even as we provide programs and services for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Nation.

I want to thank our Tribal Community for supporting and passing the annual budget. I also want to thank the MWT Elections Committee for presiding over the efficient voting process as well as the Tribal Council for providing due diligence, ensuring the integrity of the process, and seeing to it that vital annual funding levels are honored to support our growth as a Sovereign Tribal Nation!

Kutâputunumu,
Cedric Cromwell
Qaqemashq (*Running Bear*)

Financial Agency for Retirement Plan

At the end of last year, the Tribal Administration began a search for a financial firm to develop and act as advisors for a Retirement Plan for Tribal Employees. With the blessing of the Tribal Council, that search ended in the selection of the Highland Financial Group. Tribal employees will begin saving for retirement in April.

Since Highland Financial provides the full range of services from budget to protection products to investment, we have invited them to share their knowledge with the full Tribe in two ways. First, beginning next month, Highland will provide financial information articles for inclusion in Mittark. These will be published quarterly, space permitted.

Second, working with the Tribe's new Director of Education, Nitana Hicks Greendeer, Highland Financial Group Advisor, Paul Goddu, will present or host educational seminars open to all Tribal citizens. In the meantime, if you have financial questions, please feel free to call Paul Goddu at (413) 427-4762 or email him at paul.goddu@axa-advisors.com.

Tribal Health Emergency Services

Our Mission is to promote and foster overall wellness while encouraging our tribal members to become self-sufficient in all areas of life.

What is Emergency Services?

This program is designed to assist enrolled Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal members facing EMERGENCY situations. By identifying the community needs and seeking alternate resources from tribal departments, external resource agencies, and natural family supports, the program will strive to assist tribal families that are faced with certain life challenges.

Budgeting Classes Coming Soon

This initiative is to assist our tribal members to better manage their money and become self-sufficient. This will be a year round opportunity. Classes will begin in June 2016 and will be available bi-weekly from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m..

Homeless Services

The department has identified a major need for our tribal homeless population. We are well aware that affordable housing on Cape

Cod is very scarce and there are many tribal members that are homeless or facing eviction.

We further understand our tribal members are in need of residential listings, emergency shelter, getting housed and remaining housed. At this time, the Tribal Health Emergency Service Department is available to assist our members with referral and advocacy services to address your immediate need.

Veteran Services

Tribal Veteran services are to support enrolled tribal veterans that do not otherwise qualify for other tribal services and/or external assistance programs.

If you are a Mashpee Wampanoag enrolled tribal veteran, there are services available for you to assist with shelter, utilities, medical care and/or food!

Funeral Assistance

Emergency Service Department is the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal department responsible to assist families and help pay for funeral and final disposition expenses. Please be advised that there is financial help and

pre-planning assistance available!

A representative from Chapman Cole & Gleason Funeral Home will be available to education the public on preplanning for funeral expenses for our loved ones at our May tribal body meeting. Hope to see you there!

Utility Assistance

Winter protection is coming to an end! If you are currently on a service protection plan, please contact your utility provider immediately to prevent interruption of services. If you need assistance with advocacy and/or bill management, Emergency Services is here to help.

For more information for the above listed services, please do not hesitate to contact Cassie Jackson, Emergency Service Specialist, at (508) 477-0208 Ext. 142.



Old Indian Meeting House Memorial Bricks Are Back

The Mashpee Wampanoag Old Indian Meeting House Committee would like to extend a special opportunity to Tribal Citizens to purchase a commemorative brick for a donation of \$150. The bricks will adorn the walkways leading to the Old Indian Meeting House welcoming visitors with a lasting message about your loved ones.

Each brick can fit up to 3 lines of text with 16 letters per line. To purchase your brick, please complete the form below and mail it with your check to:
The Old Indian Meeting House
483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, MA 02649

Your Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (Day): _____ Telephone (evening): _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Brick Engraving Information. One Character (including spaces and quotation marks) per box.



Mark Your Calendar Old Indian Meeting House Events

Native American New Year Celebration
Saturday, May 14
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Blind Joe Amos Sunday Service
Sunday, July 17 (3rd Sunday)

Richard Bourne Sunday Service
Sunday, August 21

Thanks Giving Celebration
Sunday November 19
(Sunday before Thanksgiving)

Museum Events

Strawberry Thanksgiving
Date: June 18
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Location: Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum

Artisan's Festival
Date: July 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Location: Mashpee Community Park
(across from Mashpee Town Hall)

Craft Night
Mondays
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
MWTCGC Elder's Kitchen (temporary location change due to cataloging being conducted at the Museum)

Pre School Language Hour
Fridays
10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
MWTCGC Elder's Kitchen (temporary location change due to cataloging being conducted at the Museum)

New Story Series at the Museum

The Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum will be launching a new story series for preschoolers between the ages of three and five on Thursday, April 14. The monthly event "Stories from the Weety8" will introduce all children - native and non native - to living stories from Wampanoag communities and other native cultures. The series will be held the second Thursday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. in the weety8 located on the Museum property.

The program is designed to immerse preschoolers in the sounds of traditional native culture and stories that have been passed down through the generations. In addition to stories, the monthly event will include songs and drumming using traditional percussion instruments. There is a \$4 fee and guardians must accompany their children.

Space is limited and reservations are strongly suggested. To reserve space or learn more, contact Cultural Program Director Kitty Hendricks at (508) 477-9339 or email ghendricks@mwtribe.com.



Nashauonk
Mittark™

483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, MA 02649



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COMMUNITY



Smoked Herring and a Resort Casino by Aunt Joan Avant Tavares, Deer Clan Mother

What's happened? This same time of year, our relatives, the schools of herring, are swimming up Taunton River. Our ancestors netted them, the same way, for centuries in the Mashpee River. We traditionally celebrate the run of the Herring.

Somewhere I've read that the "wind will carry it back to you," or "what goes around, will come around". While the herring are running, we have another historical celebration, in Taunton Massachusetts, where we put the shovel in, breaking ground, on April 6, 2016, for our First Light Resort & Casino'. We are celebrating the return of our land that came back to us; authorized as "Land into Trust". Our Ancestors, in the spirit of the life-affirming Herring will be soon popping their heads up, looking for casino chips instead of plankton!

Now we have a communal celebratory marriage that has come together at the auspicious time of Spring. Smoked herring will be ready soon, get the pan ready. Oh yes, it's an honoring celebration because our people tell us so:

"We never felt so close to family as I do today. This is a world class celebration. We are proud to be here with all the wonderful people" - Dionne Spearin, Sharon Christmas, and Tara Spearin

"What a great day to be a Mashpee Wampanoag native, I was so blessed to wake up this morning and join my brothers and sisters in a monumental ground breaking. I'm so proud to be a Mashpee Wampanoag and always have. The future now is 'First Light'. - Kevin Tobey

"Working for a tribal cause is a good thing." - Aaron Tobey

"This is one big milestone for present day and for future generations that is so much needed. All we can do now is move forward." - Hoka, Manny Miranda Jr. Mashpee Wamp.

"This celebration was one of the best I have been to in years, and I have been to a lot while working in professional fields. The food was excellent and very well prepared." - Debra Galvin.

"I enjoyed our people coming together, loving each other, respecting each other.

Just being together and being happy is important." - Marlene Edwards

"The dedication was perfect. The food was to die for, and there was a positive response from all who attended. We were proud to be a part of this celebration." - Harold & Donna Tobey

"The celebration of the Ground-breaking is our history coming to light, we are family, truly." - Gail Jean, M Wamp

"It was a very nice celebration, the prayer, the drummers, songs and the breaking of the ground and building, the food brings together Wampanoag Love." - Gail Tobey

"Today marks a milestone. Not too long ago we were budgeting T-shirts that read "Aint No Stopping Us Now", as we danced at Coonamessett Inn. We as a people, as a nation are saying maybe there's a billion dollars to solidify the financial future of our tribe. The best way to sum this up is that my heart is complete." - Jameson Fernandez, M.wamp