Election Notice to Tribal Members

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Election Committee extends notice to all Enrolled Tribal Members who will turn 18 years of age on or before Sunday, February 10, 2013, that they are required to complete a Voter Registration form in order to vote at the general election on Sunday, February 10, 2013 (the “Election Day”).

The Voter Registration form can be obtained at the Tribal Council office, located at 766 Falmouth Road, Madaket Place, A4 in Mashpee during regular business hours.

All eligible Tribal members are allowed to register on or before the Election Day. The result of the Election will be posted at the above address on Monday, February 11, 2013.

The Tribal Election will be held to fill Five (5) seats on the Tribal Council for current members of Tribal Council whose terms end on the Election Day. Eligible voters will be asked to vote for one candidate for each seat listed on the ballot.

Candidate packets for enrolled Tribal Members that would like to run for a seat on the Tribal Council will be available during the December 9 general membership meeting at 2:00 PM, and at the Tribal Headquarters office after December 9.

Community and Government Center Update

As of the end of October, construction on the Mashpee Wampanoag Community and Government Center was 3.2% complete. Construction began on September 24, and in the month of October, the executive and judicial trailers were relocated, the old government building was taken down, new separate entrances have been created for the public and construction vehicles, the entire building site and overflow parking area has been cleared, and the foundation work for the new building has begun. Construction is on time according to our construction schedule.

The Tribe has been working with the Owner’s Project Representative and contractors to maximize Tribal employment opportunities on this project, and Tribal employment to date is exceeding goals.

To date 7 major subcontractors have contributed to the total workforce:

- Robert Our - Site construction subcontractor
- Miranda (Tribal Owned Entity) - Site and demolition contractor
- Griffin Electric - Electrical contactor
- Sylvester - Building moving company
- Valiant Security (Tribal Owned Entity)
**New Events**

**December 9 – 2:00 p.m.**
General Body Meeting, Mashpee High School

**December 13 – Noon to 1:00 p.m.**
7 Ways to Manage Your Diabetic Waistline During the Holidays Health Session, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Health Office

**December 16 – 11:00 a.m.**
Christmas Service, Old Indian Meeting House

**January 13 – 2:00 p.m.**
General Body Meeting, Mashpee High School

**February 10 – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**
Tribal Elections, Mashpee High School

**Weekly Events**

Thursdays – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Volleyball, Mashpee High School

Fridays – 7:00 p.m.
Youth Ministry, Pastor Chris and Peggy’s Home

Biweekly – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Mashpee Food Pantry, The food pantry is held on Monday and Wednesday every other week

Biweekly – 10:30 a.m to 2:30 p.m.
New Bedford Food Pantry, The food pantry is held on Tuesday and Thursday every other week

Monthly – 7:00 p.m.
Chiefs Circle, Old Indian Meeting House. It is held the first Tuesday of the month.

**Language Classes**

Please visit [www.wlrp.org](http://www.wlrp.org) for the current schedule of language classes.

**Tribal Announcements**

» Congratulations to **Chenoa Peters** and **KoBi Howerton** for being elected to student council. Chenoa and KoBi are both in the 6th grade at the Quashnet School and were very successful in the K-Kids 2012 elections; Chenoa securing the President role and KoBi winning the Vice President role. Keep up the great work!

» Congratulations to **Danita** and **Dante Payne** on the birth of their new baby girl, Sa’vante Payne. Sa’vante was born October 19, weighting 8lbs and 9oz, 21 inches. Congratulations mom and dad!

» Congratulations to **Talia Landry**, daughter of Diane Johnson, for making the dean’s list for another semester. Talia is a junior at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut where she is studying journalism.

» Congratulations to our Rhode Island tribal member **Edwina Cooley** on her new position. Edwina is the new Assistant Director at the Providence Rescue Missions “Grace House” women’s home. This home provides personal growth, life skills, goal setting, education and spiritual support to previously homeless women willing to explore the process of change.

**Meeting House Announcements**

The Meeting House Committee would like to announce that as of December 1 there will no longer be regular Sunday and Wednesday evening service. The Committee wishes to thank Pastor Chris and Peg Trombetta for spreading the word of God.

The Meeting House will be celebrating the Christmas season with a Christmas service on Sunday December 16 at 11:00 a.m. Please join us in welcoming in this joyous time of year.

**Tribal Treasurer Invited Guest Speaker**

Tribal Treasurer Mark Harding was an invited guest speaker at two events this fall where he represented Mashpee Wampanoag fiscal and environmental concerns, and tribal history on a national level.

On November 27 Mr. Harding was a featured panelist at a community and tribal stakeholders conference at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona where he discussed the use of Geophysical Classification for Munitions Response.

The invitation came from the Interstate Technology Regulatory Council, an organization that develops guidance documents and Internet-based training course that reflects recent technical and procedural advances site remediation. This conference speaks on the technology that is currently being tested at the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) in detecting and classifying geophysical underground anomalies for munitions response projects. Geophysical anomaly classification is a new, cutting-edge technology, in which geophysical anomalies (e.g. scrap metal, unexploded ordnance, etc.) are detected on a
munications response site, and then, with the use of new instruments and advanced geophysics, the anomalies are classified underground in order to determine whether or not the individual items will be need to be removed.

In addition to his role as tribal treasurer Mr. Harding serves as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Governor’s appointee on the Senior Management Board overseeing the environmental concerns on the upper 15,000 acres of the MMR including the ongoing oversight of munitions response cleanup activity on the base.

In September Mr. Harding was a featured speaker at the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) Fall Finance and Tribal Economies Conference held at the Hard Rock Hotel in San Diego California. As one of several panelists during a session on effective negotiations and financial planning for tribal governments, Mr. Harding made a presentation on the history of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and spoke about our economic development initiatives.

NAFOA is an independent national non-profit organization providing leadership for the advancement of independent and culturally-vibrant American Indian and Alaska Native communities by: promoting excellence in financial management, advocating sound economic and fiscal policy, developing innovative education initiatives, and providing essential information, resources, and support to meet the challenges of economic growth and change. NAFOA is one of many non-profit tribal associations where the Mashpee Wampanoag enjoys strength in membership and the ability to network with other tribes and tribal enterprises.

Each of these trips was invita
tional with expenses covered by the organizational host.

have real discussions about candidates, and then to encourage each and every eligible Tribal citizen to get out to vote. Special thanks go to those who registered others to vote, got absentee ballots for those who could not vote in person, and who provided transportation to the polls for those who otherwise could not have gotten out to vote. This participation and enthusiasm is absolutely critical to not only shaping policy and elect
ing leaders today, but also to show that the Native vote is a force to be reckoned with in all future elections.

Like the United States, we as a Tribal Nation are moving forward in hope and optimism as well. I hope you will take time to read the update from the Development Department in this issue of the Mittark. The partnership between Development and my office, Tribal Council, Tribal departments, Tribal committees, and Tribal members has resulted in incredible in
creases in funding and opportunity for our Tribe. This funding means increases in Tribal services and programs, construction of our Community and Government Center, new opportunities for individual Tribal members, financial stability, and the strong foundation for sustainable growth and improvement in programs and service for decades to come. I am grateful for the work of our Development Department and for the great cooperation shown across our Tribe to work with Development to make these improvements and accomplishments possible.

I also give thanks to the Health Department for all the services they are providing to families and elders to promote culturally appropriate healing and quality healthcare delivery. I am also thankful for the Housing Department’s initiative through the Section 184 program to purchase houses in Mashpee for Tribal families, enabling us to keep tribal families here in Mashpee one step at a time. Thank you and I look forward to more great things to come!
Habitat for Humanity is having a lottery for four homes in Mashpee and Falmouth. The lottery will be for two three-bedroom houses in Mashpee, and a three-bedroom house and a one-bedroom house in Falmouth. For further information, tribal members should contact Habitat for Humanity, Vicki Goldsmith at (508) 363-3559 ext. 13 on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Habitat for Humanity provides decent, affordable houses to families in need. Habitat homeowners work alongside volunteers to construct their homes. Since 1976, the organization has built or repaired over 500,000 houses worldwide for more than 2.5 million people.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department is here to help Tribal Members find affordable housing. We look forward to assisting in any way we can.

Tribal Court Rulings Now Online

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Court now has its decisions available online through the generous assistance of Suffolk Law School. All decisions of the Tribal Court to date can be accessed via the following address: http://library.law.suffolk.edu/screens/Wampanoag1.html

In the future, some cases may contain confidential information and those cases may be ordered sealed by the Tribal Court Judge. Cases involving juveniles, Indian Child Welfare Act cases, and cases involving involuntary commitment proceedings are also closed to the public.

For a complete statement of the Tribal Court policy regarding tribal member access please contact Marita Scott (508-539-1208). Generally speaking, all Tribal Court proceedings are open to tribal members and all files are available for inspection by tribal members. Tribal members can obtain copies of court filings upon payment of a copying fee.

The Tribal Court is committed to a free and open process.

Diabetes Health Information Session on December 13

Tribal Health Services is continuing its monthly informational session in December with “7 Ways To Manage Your Diabetic (or sugar sensitive) Waist Line During The Holidays.” The health information session will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2012 from 12 Noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Tribal Health Services Office located at 483 Great Neck Road in Mashpee. Please come and learn the tools to strengthen your mind, body and spirit. A light lunch will be served. For more info call Kim or Wendy at (508) 477-6912.
Hand Knit Caps Given to our Youth

The Child Care Program teamed up with Knit-A-Capper to keep the ears of our youth warm with hand knit caps. The team effort resulted in 40 knit caps that were custom made by volunteers of the Knit-A-Capper organization being handed out through our Child Care Program.

Knit-A-Capper was founded by Dorothy (Dot) Levens and Dr. Helen Van Alstine in 1969 when they learned that children on reservations in Phoenix were suffering from severe ear infections from the cold.

The first year Dot and Helen knit 58 caps the first year. They called the project “Knit-A-Cap.” Among the first volunteers were parents of students in the Laboratory School Dot directed at Vassar. Knitters now live in Massachusetts, Kansas, Florida, Connecticut, California, Illinois, Washington D.C., Maryland, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Georgia. The caps sent from other locations will number 2,000 this year.

By Gertrude “Kitty” Hendricks

Development Office Update (continued)

Planning for the needs of Tribal members in New Bedford. With the help of elders in New Bedford, we are planning for the operations, maintenance and programs and services to be offered in the Tribe’s New Bedford office.

Even in the face of federal budget cuts across many areas of funding over the last two years, the Development Office has succeeded in increasing help for the Tribe and Tribal members:

+1-2% Increase in Title IV B grant funding. Funding to help Tribal children and families in the foster care system for the ICWA Department has been successfully awarded again for FY2013 with a 1-2% increase in funding over the previous year.

+20% Increase in Commonwealth of MA Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) grant funding. Funding to help the Tribe’s EPrep program purchase supplies and equipment has been successfully awarded again for FY2013 with a 20% increase over the prior year.

40% Increase in Child Care Development funding over last year.

New funding to support the Tribe’s shellfish processing capacities. USDA Rural Development Economic Impact Initiative funding will help the Tribe build out shellfish processing facilities at Maushop Farm.

Managing a Chronic Health Condition

Starting in January, Indian Health Services (IHS) and Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Health Services will be teaming up to provide a six-week program on managing a chronic health condition or caring for a family member with a chronic health condition. The program, Nuneetuskukuheut80k… Nupumotam80k (My Life...My Health), will be held at the Health Services Office at 483 Great Neck Road. If you are interested in the program, please contact Tribal Health at (508) 477-6967.

The program will focus on ways to manage a chronic health condition and will include coping strategies to improve the quality of your life.

Nearly $1 million in construction costs to build the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Government & Community Center during 2013, over $12 million in funding secured and ready for construction completion in the coming year, and an estimated $4 million in cost savings over the next 40 years. In addition, during 2013 construction of the Tribal Government & Community Center will be complete, providing an estimated savings of over $100,000.00 per year for every year over the coming forty years in rent and utilities payments that the Tribe had otherwise been paying to non-tribal landlords to provide space for our Tribal departments and programs to operate. This estimated $4 million dollars in savings will be in place for generations of Tribal members to come.

The Development Team
Wanda Jean Lord, Development Officer (Cherokee/Choctaw)
Leslie Jonas, Sr. Development Specialist (Mashpee Wampanoag)
Myrna Nuey, Development Research Specialist (Mashpee Wampanoag)
Beth Helme, Development Associate (Mashpee Wampanoag)
Kris Clark Receives Founders’ Award

Congratulations to our very own Kris Clark, an environmentalist who works under National Resource Department managing our shellfish farm, on her receiving the Founders’ Award from the Barnstable Land Trust at its annual meeting November 16 at St. Peter’s Church in Osterville.

The Founders’ Award is given by the Barnstable Land Trust annually to “an individual, organization, business or government agency for having the vision to empower the people of Barnstable to preserve the essence of Cape Cod – its open spaces and natural resources, wetlands, woodlands and wildlife.” Congratulations Kris! Keep up the excellent work!

Community Center Update (continued)

As of the end of October, 180 full time employee (FTE) days have been devoted to the project. With the help of Yvonne Tobey and the general contractor, Dellbrook Construction, out of 180 FTE days, 79 were performed by Tribal members for over 42% Tribal participation on the project. In addition, two of the subcontractors onsite so far are Tribal Owned Entities.

To maximize Tribal participation, the Tribe, led by WIA Director Yvonne Tobey, has collected, organized, and categorized many resumes of tribal members seeking employment; is assisting Dellbrook in finding Tribal members with skill sets that match up with subcontractor requirements; assists subcontractors in finding Tribal members that match their skill set needs; is encouraging Tribal members to directly contact subcontractors that work within the field in which they have experience; and is assisting Tribal members to gain the needed basic prerequisites to be able to work on the MWGC project site.

In addition, Dellbrook Construction communicates to all subcontractors the minimum requirements for tribal member hiring and encourages the goals not only be met but exceeded; distributes the list of available Tribal workers which has been organized by worker skill sets; provides resumes to subcontractors of tribal workers; meets with subcontractor foremen / managers prior to mobilization to review Tribal participation onsite; tracks on a daily basis, the names and hours worked of all Tribal and non-tribal workers, along with the company for which each individual works; and provides contact information (through Yvonne Tobey) of all subcontractors hired for use by Tribe members to solicit employment directly.

Over the next few months, we expect to continue to make great progress on this project. Foundation construction continues with completion of the majority of frost wall placement by late December. Structural steel erection is planned for January. Specialty steel frames and roof joists are to be received in February, and the early installation of underslab electrical and plumbing work is scheduled for January-February.

Granny Squannit Day a Success

This year’s Granny Squannit Day was a huge success thanks to a team effort led by our Youth Council. There were over 100 kids and family members that attended the fun and informative event. There were hayrides, a pumpkin patch, face painting, food and candy, and stories of nice Granny Squannit.

The Youth Council began the planning of the event months ago. Jason and Quan prepared the farm. Lavern and BeBe made several amazing dishes and the parents of the Youth Council members brought soda, food, and candy apples. Randy Peters pulled together a group of goblins that did a great job exciting the little kids. Bernardine Pocknett played Granny Squannit and told the kids many stories that reinforced that she was a nice granny. In addition, Ricky Hendricks provided hayrides around the farm. It truly was a great day for everyone involved.

There were plenty of activities to keep the kids and parents entertained. There was a pumpkin patch where little ones could pick out a pumpkin and then decorate it. There was apple picking, potato sack races, donut bobbin, coloring, several other games, face painting by Candy Hendricks, plenty of food and candy for the kids.

The Youth Council and all of the volunteers went above and beyond for Granny Squannit Day and it showed. The Council even came back to the farm the next day to do a walk through the farm and make sure it was left in better condition. We cannot wait to see what the Youth Council plans for next year.
“Mashpee As I Remember It” by Aunt Joan Tavares Avent

Aunt Dinks Roberta Avant Duarte (1920-1997) held on to her cultural roots literally by documenting and passing on her journal to me titled “Mashpee As I Remember It”. She then was sixty-years old. I’m sure she would be pleased that I share it with tribal families and friends. After you read some of her accounts of Mashpee and its folk you will know more about early times ensuing events.

“Mashpee as I remember it was the happiest days of my life. The purpose of this journal is to let you know how we live in Mashpee in my day and in the preceding days. This is a journal of love of my hometown and my people…”

The summers seemed to last much longer at the age of twelve than they do at age sixty-six. I think it was because we had to furnish our own entertainment.

During the summer months we used to gather at what is known as “Twelve Acres” and it was also used as a ball field.

Carl Avant (my brother) used to trap for raccoon and rabbit for their furs. He would skin them and stretch their pelts on a flat board. He had someone he shipped them to. I remember when he ice fished for pickerel. He would chop a hole in the ice up near Wakeby (Mashpee Lake). Carl also hunted and fished up around Ashumet, John’s and Moody Ponds as an adolescent that was about a mile from home. He had a hound dog named Fido that was part beagle. While in the woods he said the first time he heard a bird called “loon” which makes a noise like a woman’s hysterical laughter his hair stood up on ends.

Carl loved visiting his favorite Uncle Will Pocknett where he had a camp called “Linguasa” at Popponesset Beach. I never saw it but was told it was an old discarded bus where he removed the seats. Carl would spend the night and sometimes stay there for weeks even though he was married and had a house full of children. Make no mistake he loved his wife and children but just had to be alone at times. There was no electricity in South Mashpee then so you can imagine how lonely it must have been to anyone but Uncle Will.

Back in those days there were more houses from where Aunt Vi’s house is now until you got right down to South Mashpee and there were only about three there and they didn’t reach the beach… more to come.

By Joan Tavares Avent aka Granny Squannit

Renovations of Maushop Farm Underway

External resources have been tapped to complete renovations of the Maushop Farm that are currently underway. Treasurer Mark Harding has worked diligently to secure funding and resources needed to renovate the aging buildings on the farm.

Working with Jason Steiding and the Department of Public Works, a U.S. Department of Energy Golden Field Grant was used to install photovoltaic panels on the riding barn. The photovoltaic panels will provide clean, affordable energy for years to come.

Rehabilitated support has been provided from Sherriff James Cummings who works with Mark on environmental issues. Sherriff Cummings’ crew from the Barnstable House of Correction installed a new roof and siding on the riding barn. With the barn completed, the Sherriff’s crew have turned their attention to installing a new roof on the Boarding Stable.

Additional renovations in the first quarter of next year include the renovation of a third structure for economic development initiatives. This building will be converted into a wholesale facility for the First Light Oyster Farm. Having a building for the oyster farm is needed to support the future growth of the business and will enable it expand into retail sales.

The First Light Oyster Farm expansion was a joint effort of the Natural Resource Director Quan Tobey and funded through a grant from the BIA and a USDA grant secured by Wanda Lord that made the project possible.

Through these initiatives, Maushop Farm will be ready for the spring planting season and future uses.

College Scholarship

Scholarship applications for the spring 2013 semester are due by Saturday, December 15. Scholarships will be awarded up to the maximum amount of $2,000.

The Education Department is aware that students may not have access to official transcripts or class registration prior to the December 15 application deadline. We ask that students complete as much of the application as possible and to send in any outstanding documents as soon as possible. For additional information, contact Anne Foxx in the Education Department at (508) 419-6017 x609 or afoxx@mwtribe.com.

Application online at: www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com (under Education Department)

Submit applications to: Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department 766 Falmouth Road, A4 Mashpee, MA 02649 Fax: (508) 477-1246 Email: afoxx@mwtribe.com

www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com
Inter-Tribal Potluck Social

The November 24 Inter-Tribal Potluck Social at Camp Burgess in Sandwich was very well attended. Thank you to all that attended, brought food, danced, drummed, and sang.

It was a great time for our community to come together. Tribal Members, friends and family were in town for the holiday and it made for a great reunion.

The food was great and the drumming and singing by Championship Drum Mystic River and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s own Eastern Sons and Red Hawk Drummers and Singers kept everyone on their feet dancing.

Tribal Elections

Election Day
Sunday, February 10, 2013

Voting Hours:
Enrolled, Registered Elders
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Enrolled, Registered Tribal Members: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Mashpee High School

Four (4) Tribal Officer Seats up for Election
Chairperson (4 year term)
Vice-Chairperson (4 year term)
Secretary (4 year term)
Treasurer (4 year term)
One (1) Tribal Council Seat: Tribal Council Member (4 year term)

Candidate packets will be at the December General Body Meeting and at Tribal Headquarters.