Word from the Chairman

Wuneekeesq Nutawâm (Greetings to my Tribal Community)

As our Annual Powwow rapidly approaches, I want to acknowledge and thank some of the many people who have been taking time out of their own busy lives to help our tribe, our members and our community.

Over Memorial Day weekend, I was pleased to take part in the ribbon cutting ceremony for Mashpee’s Old One Room Schoolhouse. Many thanks to all of the people who have worked so hard to make the restoration of the historic schoolhouse a reality.

That same day, the Town of Mashpee celebrated Memorial Day and its many residents who have served the United States in the Armed Forces. I was deeply honored to be a part of this observance, and grateful to be able to give a speech honoring all Mashpee Wampanoag Warriors who served in the U.S. Armed Forces to protect the United States of America. We currently have several Mashpee Wampanoag Warriors involved in military conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. I want to recognize all of them and pray that the Creator watches over them and protects them while they

Tribal Housing Plan Unveiled

By Paula Peters

After a year of public hearings, planning meetings, and an extensive tribal survey, the Housing Committee and the Seneca planning and development firm of Kennedy Wendel presented the results of a housing plan and feasibility study for the Mashpee Wampanoag Meetinghouse Road site. The study is for the development of infrastructure and land preparation and does not include plans for the actual housing units, but is considered a huge first step for the overall project.

“I feel really good about this plan because of the amount of community input that went into it,” said Housing Director Alice Lopez during a public hearing to unveil the plan on May 30, 2009. “This really was developed by the community.”

Adam Kennedy, a Seneca who is a principal in the design build firm of Kennedy Wendel hired to help the tribe develop the plan, presented an overview of the plan developed with guidance from the Housing Committee, which assigned committee member Joan Avant as a mentor to the project.

The land, donated to the tribe by Willowbend, is just less than 50 acres. While the ongoing issue of our land into trust application will factor into the ultimate development, even without that designation Kennedy said the project will have no problem moving forward under current zoning or as a 40-B affordable housing development.

Ms. Lopez said the 50-unit development would be largely single-family units and include eight duplexes for elderly tribal members. All will be managed as rental units by the tribal housing department.

(Continued on page 7)
June
20 Pawtucket Strawberry Thanksgiving, 10 am to 5 pm. Pawtucket Public Park, Pawtucket, RI
21 Youth Cultural Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal Finance building
21 Reading/Craft Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal office
21 Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tribal Finance building
22 Youth Cultural Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal Finance building
26 Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tribal Finance building
30 Food Pantry, 1:30 to 3:30 pm, Tribal office

July
5 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 3:30 pm, Tribal office
6 Reading/Craft Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal office
6 Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tribal Finance building
20 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 3:30 pm, Tribal office
20 Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tribal Finance building
27 Reading/Craft Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal office
27 Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tribal Finance building
31 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 3:30 pm, Tribal office

August
2 Tribal Elders Meeting
9 National Native American Month/Gen. Corn Thanksgiving Old Mill Road Route 2
23 Meet the Candidates, 11 am-12 pm, Tribal grounds
26 General Membership Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tribal Finance building

DEPARTMENTS
Keeping the Peace is Top Priority for Judiciary Committee
By Paula Peters

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Youth Program is working with the youth to make regalia for the July 4th, 5th and 6th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow. For more information, please contact Tribal Council Secretary Marie Stone at 508-477-6208.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council is in the process of forming a Mashpee Wampanoag Motion Picture Production Committee. The committee will be responsible for getting the Museum ready for opening. If you are interested in being nominated to the Museum committee, please contact Tribal Council Secretary Marie Stone at 508-477-6208.

The Newsletter Committee is looking for new members who are interested in helping to gather information, write and edit the monthly Nashuonak Mitti. Interested candidates should have some experience in interviewng, writing and or editing. If you are interested in being nominated to the Newsletter Committee, please contact Tribal Council Secretary Marie Stone at 508-477-6208.

Save the date! The 4th Annual Clara Louise Kelinium Memorial Golf Classic will be held on Monday, September 28, 2009 at the Quashnet Valley Country Club in Mashpee. For more information contact Shawna Corbin at 508-477-6562.

The Finance Committee will hold its monthly meeting on the 17th of each month at 6:30 pm at the Tribal Finance building.

July

6 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 3:30 pm, Tribal office
13 Food Pantry, 1:30 to 3:30 pm, Tribal office
13 Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tribal Finance building
19 Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tribal Finance building
26 Reading/Craft Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal office
26 Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tribal Finance building
29 Food Pantry, 1:30 to 3:30 pm, Tribal office
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August

1 Tribal Elders Meeting
6 National Native American Month/Gen. Corn Thanksgiving Old Mill Road Route 2
14 Reading/Craft Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal office
14 Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tribal Finance building
15 Reading/Craft Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal office
16 Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tribal Finance building
20 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 3:30 pm, Tribal office
20 Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tribal Finance building
27 Reading/Craft Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal office
27 Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tribal Finance building
28 Reading/Craft Night, 6 to 8 pm, Tribal office
28 Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tribal Finance building
29 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 3:30 pm, Tribal office
31 Wampanoag Language Immersion Camp, 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Tribal grounds

ON THE DRUM BEAT

Keeping the Peace is Top Priority for Judiciary Committee
By Paula Peters

The purpose of the ordinance includes establishing a tribal court system that provides for the administration of justice and to insure the inherent sovereignty of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council will be established as the governing body which will appoint or designate candidates to the Tribal Supreme Court by the Tribal Council. The Tribal Judiciary shall consist of a Tribal Supreme Court, a District Court, a Peacemaker Court, and such lower courts and offices as may later be established. The Tribal Supreme Court shall consist of three judges and its jurisdiction shall include: appeals from the District Court, cases dispositive of the final results of a Tribal Council election, petitions necessary or appropriate in aid of execution of the Tribes or in aid of the Jurisdiction of the Tribal law. The District Court shall hear and render judgment upon all civil and minor criminal cases not within the jurisdiction of the Tribe. The Supreme Court shall establish written rules of procedure, evidence, and other rules of court for the Tribal Judiciary and may prescribe rules for attorney admissions and a bar association. The Judicial Committee shall advertise vacancies for Tribal Judge positions and recommend judges for appointment by the Tribal Supreme Court. Supreme Court Judges shall be appointed to staggered terms of eight years and the District Court judges shall be appointed to a term of five years. Tribal Judges must meet the following qualifications: (1) be an enrolled member of the Tribe or another Tribe, (2) be a graduate of an ABA approved law school, or a current or former judge; (3) must be of high moral character; (4) be of ethical character; and (5) have no felony convictions or committed crimes (misdemeanor or above). Judges may be subject to discipline or removal if they are convicted of a crime.

The Chief Judge of the Supreme Court shall act as the Chief Judge of the Tribal Court, and this individual must be: (1) at least 21 years old; (2) of high moral character; (3) have a high level of education; (4) be of high moral character; and (5) be computer literate. The position of the Chief Judge of the Supreme Court shall have the right to an attorney at his trial, the Supreme Court shall have the right to an attorney at his case and the Tribal Supreme Court shall have the right to an attorney at his case. All other members of the Supreme Court shall have the right to an attorney at his case.

The Peacemaker Court is to be established and the Peacemaker is to be selected by a vote of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe may make regulations for the government and administration of its people, and to ensure the inherent sovereignty of the Tribe, the Tribe shall have a right to the establishment of such courts and judicial officers as are not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States. Under this provision, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe shall pass laws for regulating and providing for the peace and public order in its territory and for the redress of wrongs and injuries.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe shall be entitled to the benefits of the Indian Child Welfare Act. (ICWA) as it was held, was adopted by Congress in 1978 to provide laws that enable Indian tribes to take full responsibility for the care and custody of their children. The Act defines a child as being: (1) at least 21 years old; (2) be of high moral character; (3) have a high level of education; (4) be of high moral character; and (5) be computer literate. The position of the Chief Judge of the Supreme Court shall have the right to an attorney at his trial, the Supreme Court shall have the right to an attorney at his case and the Tribal Supreme Court shall have the right to an attorney at his case. All other members of the Supreme Court shall have the right to an attorney at his case.
The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Youth program is working with the youth to make regalia for the July 3rd, 4th and 5th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow. For more information, please contact Tribal Council Secretary Marie Stone at 508-477-0208.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council is in the process of forming a Mashpee Wampanoag Museum. This committee will be responsible for getting the Museum ready for opening. If you are interested in being nominated to the Museum committee, please contact Tribal Council Secretary Marie Stone at 508-477-0208.

The Newsletter Committee is looking for new members who are interested in helping to gather information, write and edit the monthly Nashauonk Mittark. Interested candidates should have some experience in interviewing, writing and or editing. If you are interested in being nominated to the Newsletter Committee, please contact Tribal Council Secretary Marie Stone at 508-477-0208.

Save the date! The 14th Annual Clara Louise Keliiinui Memorial Golf Classic will be held on Monday, September 28, 2009 at the Quashnet Valley Country Club in Mashpee. The theme of this year’s event, which helps the tribal scholarship fund, is “A Tribute to All Mashpee Wampanoag Families.” Sponsorship opportunities and entry details will be available soon.

And congratulations to Natasha Jonas and Charles Curtis on the birth of their seven pound one ounce baby girl!

And lets not forget Kourtney Lebon Frye who just graduated from Falmouth High School. Shaelynn will be attending Cape Cod Community College in the fall...

The Mashpee Wampanoag Museum Committee. The committee will be responsible for getting the Wampanoag Museum ready for opening. If you are interested in being nominated to the Museum committee, please contact Tribal Council Secretary Marie Stone at 508-477-0208.

The Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation Act of 1974 (25 U.S.C. § 3041 et seq.) is the primary federal legislation for relocation of Navajo and Hopi Tribal members from lands that were allotted to them as individual family farms under the Dawes Act, which was enacted in 1887. According to the law, those who were enrolled members of the Navajo and Hopi tribes on October 3, 1974, are eligible for relocation. The law was created to provide alternative living conditions to what were often difficult and isolated reservations, and to ensure the inherent sovereignty of the Navajo and Hopi member communities.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council will be establishing a tribal court system to provide assistance to tribal members who may be in a court system. The Tribal court system will be established in accordance with ICWA. The Supreme Court of the United States has the authority to hear these cases and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

The Peacemaker method is cross cultural and has been used by many Native tribes and includes setting a basic tone. The Peacemaker is a traditional Native American method of dispute resolution. It is an informal process that takes place outside the formal court system.

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Leslie Jonas Named 2009 Powwow Director

Leslie Jonas, a Mashpee Wampanoag member with over twenty-five years professional experience producing major events for Fortune 1000 corporations, has been named 2009 Powwow Director by Tribal Council. Jonas, who has also served the tribe as a communications strategist for the health department, brings both enthusiasm for creating outstanding events as well as a strong commitment to keeping our heritage alive in a culturally sensitive and appropriate fashion to her new role.

Ms. Jonas hopes that all attendees at the Powwow take the 2009 theme of “Honoring our Tribal Medicine” to heart and exercise the concept in our continued process of tribal healing. “Our Powwow tradition has been about bringing the entire Mashpee Wampanoag tribe together with extended family and friends as well as outside guests to celebrate and honor our Mother Earth, our Tribal Medicine, our Spiritual Guides: Chief Silent Drum Lopez and Medicine Man Earl Guy Cash, our Elders, our children and our land,” Jonas said. “We drum, pray, dance, sing, and eat in celebration and honor of our incredibly rich heritage here in Mashpee as ‘People of the First Light.’”

Ms. Jonas also stresses a commitment to increased security throughout Powwow weekend. “We are deploying increased security and safety for all guests and tribal members, 24 hours a day throughout the weekend,” Jonas explained. “We will enforce on-site camping registration and patrol areas thoroughly. There will be no tolerance of alcohol and drug use on our tribal grounds.”

Sun Shines on Youth Sobriety Powwow

By Melissa Hill

On Saturday, May 30th the sun came out as the Youth Council put on another successful Youth Sobriety Powwow. In between the singing and dancing, young Quentin Tobey demonstrated his amazing Kung Fu skills that impressed all that were watching. Also, Mariah Hendricks informed the attendees about a non-profit organization in which she is active. The organization, called “To Write Love on Her Arm” encourages youth to deal with depression and the pressures of drugs and alcohol in a positive, healthy manner. Furthermore, the family members of Joshua Lopes and Alicia A. Birchett, two young tribal members who recently passed on, gathered in the circle with friends and loved ones in order to take part in dancing to a song honoring their short lives. Food was provided along with activities that encouraged sobriety; an overall message to maintain a happy healthy tribal youth was heard throughout the day.

MCNAA Spring Powwow

Tribal members enjoy social dances at the annual Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness Spring Planting Moon Powwow on Saturday, May 23rd. The event was held at the Marshfield fairgrounds.

POWWOw 2009

88th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow

Honoring Tribal Medicine
July 3 - July 5, 2009
483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee

Grand Entry – Friday, July 3rd at Noon
Scheduled Events & Special Performances
- Warwick Gormby Troupe from Bermuda
- New England Birds of Prey
- Wampanoag Princess Contest
- Sly Fox Moonrace (Saturday, July 4th – 6:30 p.m. at the Mashpee Pond)
- Jazbo's Indigenous Jazz Ensemble
- Fire Ball Game (Saturday, July 4th – Duck)
- Clara Bake (Saturday, July 5th)

Over $30,000 in Prizes
Native American Art, Jewelry, Wampum, Gifts, Crafts, Dancing, Drumming, Food, Games & Clothing
Vendors by invitation only

Gates Open at 10:00 a.m.
Open to the Public

Head Man Dancer: Matt Boardley
Head Woman Dancer: Brittany Smith
Emcee: Annawon Weeden
Arena Director: David Weeden

Photo Credit: Courtesy of edible South Shore magazine © Michael Hart 2009
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Photo Credit: Courtesy of edible South Shore magazine © Michael Hart 2009
Maspee’s One Room Schoolhouse Opens to Public

Chairman Cedric Cromwell participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the opening of Mashpee’s Old One Room Schoolhouse to the public after a major restoration project. According to Mashpee Tribal Council Member Gordon Harris, who is also Treasurer of the Mashpee One Room Schoolhouse Preservation Council, the Mashpee Women’s Club took on the initial restoration project of Mashpee’s One Room Schoolhouse also known as South Mashpee School/Ockway Chapel in 1999. The Club raised more than $50,000 and the initial restoration was completed in 2003.

In 2005, the Mashpee One Room Schoolhouse Preservation Council, Inc. (MOSPC) was formed to raise funds for the purpose of preservation, protection and perpetual care of Mashpee’s One Room Schoolhouse. With the hard work and dedication of past and present MOSPC board members including several tribal members, donations from Mashpee High School students, the Quassnet School, guidance from the Mashpee Historical Commission and a generous grant of $55,000 from the Town of Mashpee, the Schoolhouse was moved to its present location next to the Mashpee Archives building were the restoration project was completed. The Schoolhouse officially opened to the public on May 25th 2009.

Work Continues to Complete Meetinghouse

By Paula Peters

In May, the town of Mashpee approved funding from Community Preservation Act funds in the amount of $250,000 for the tribe to continue work on the restoration of the Old Indian Meetinghouse.

C.H. Newton Builders Project Manager John Rodenhizer said phase two of the construction is nearly complete to finish the exterior and make the structure weather tight. Still left to be done are the laced ridge cap on the roof and some additional framing of the exterior balcony, installation of wooden posts, installation of the exterior doors and the finish paint on the exterior.

“The recent funding will allow us to finish the exterior envelope and begin the interior finish,” said Mr. Rodenhizer.

The tribe still needs to raise more than $400,000 for phase three to complete the project including the completion of the interior finish and landscaping.

“We realize that additional funding will be required and will assist all efforts to secure funding from all sources,” said Mr. Rodenhizer who expressed C.H. Newton’s commitment and pride in this project. “We look forward to resuming this project and restoring the use of a great building for the tribe.”

Anyone interested in making a contribution to the fund to complete the restoration of the Old Indian Meetinghouse may do so by sending a donation to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Post Office Box 1480, Mashpee, MA 02649.

Maspee High Honors Wampanoag Graduates

By Melissa Hill

This past May several Wampanoag students who attend Mashpee High School were acknowledged and honored for the academic excellence they have carried out throughout their high school careers. Not only have they graduated from high school, but they also wish to further their education in the future.

Students including Taed Diaz, Mariah Hendricks, Amanda Andrade and Ikwe Mills were congratulated at the award ceremony hosted by Ebony Gunn with guest speakers Larry Mahan and Shani Turner. The students shared great words of wisdom by Larry Mahan along with a plaque that had their names inscribed on them.

Other tribal students, Leah Teixiera, Matt Lopes, Lauren Fermino and Rachael Fermino were not able to attend the ceremony but did graduate with the others on Saturday, June 6th.

In September Unique Costa and Amanda Andrade will be attending Cape Cod Community College. Taed Diaz will attend St. Thomas Florida University. Ikwe Mills plans to attend St. Joseph’s College in New York. Rachael Fermino will be attending Lesley College in Boston while Leah Teixiera will attend Pace University in New York. Matt Lopes, Mariah Hendricks and Lauren Fermino are presently undecided about where they will attend college, but do plan to further their education in the future.

Tribe offers Reward to Wampanoag Police

Tribe Council presented a $500 check to the Mashpee Police to be used as a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for a stabbing that occurred on Tribal Grounds in the early morning hours of July 6, 2008.

Chairman Cedric Cromwell expressed the desire to not only solve this crime but also to build a stronger relationship with Mashpee and its police department. “Any act of violence on Tribal grounds will not be tolerated. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council is committed to working in cooperation with the Mashpee Police Department to find whoever is responsible for this crime,” Cromwell stated. “Tribal members as well as our neighbors should know that while this incident was an anomaly, we take it very seriously. Tribal Council will be putting new security measures in place to prevent this type of crime in the future.”

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the Mashpee Police.
Mashpee’s One Room Schoolhouse Opens to Public

Chairman Cedric Cromwell participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony to open the Mashpee’s One Room Schoolhouse to the public after a major restoration project. According to Tribal Council Member Gordon Harvey, who is also Treasurer of the Mashpee One Room Schoolhouse Preservation Council, the Mashpee Women’s Club took on the initial restoration project of Mashpee’s One Room Schoolhouse also known as South Mashpee School/Ockway Chapel in 1999. The Club raised more than $50,000 and the initial restoration was completed in 2003. In 2005, the Mashpee One Room Schoolhouse Preservation Council, Inc. (MOSPC) was formed to raise funds for the purpose of preservation, protection and perpetual care of Mashpee’s One Room Schoolhouse.

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Tribal Council Offers Reward through Mashpee Police

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First Little Miss Wampanoag Crowned

By Melissa Hill

On Friday, May 29th our Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow Princess, Talia Landry, hosted the first annual Little Miss Wampanoag Pageant. Four contestants, Anna Hendricks, Dyani Barbosa, Chenoah Peters and Amiah Peters competed to be the first Little Miss Wampanoag. The event started off with a fashion show in which the girls showed off four beautiful dresses. It continued on to the talent portion of the show in which each young lady danced in full regalia to songs played by the Red Hawk Singers. Drumming continued as the judges came to a conclusion and, to wrap up the event, Chenoah Peters received a sash and flowers along with the title “Little Miss Wampanoag.”

In Our Own Words

Wôpanâak Language Immersion Camp is Coming!

The Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project will be holding its 3rd Annual Language Immersion Camp at 55 Acres at the Tribal Council from July 31st to August 2nd. The camp is limited to 60 participants and is on a first-come first-served basis. The deadline for application submission is July 15, 2009 and camp applications can be found both in the Tribal Council office and online at www.wlrp.org/Events.html. Applications may be mailed to the WLRP address at PO Box 2241, Mashpee, MA 02649. Postmark determines application date. For more information contact info@wlrp.org

WampWords

nupumukôn – I am dancing
nukusapus – I am hot
nukôhkut8n – I am thirsty
nupee - water
For Wampanoag Speakers – Here are a couple of phrases to translate and use among other speakers. Have fun with it!
Tyâqas kûkât meech?
Ahqôpay pumukonat.