The Housing Department is now accepting applications for a new Rental Subsidy Lottery. Applications for the lottery must be submitted by Friday, September 29 and should be dropped off in the locked box located at the front desk of the Community and Government Center.

This year the rental lottery has 15 slots, which will provide up to $300.00 per

Cape Cod Times Editorial: Cultural Identity

A federal court judge in Boston last week agreed to further delay proceedings in a lawsuit against the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in its bid to build a casino in East Taunton.

The lawsuit was filed by neighbors of the would-be casino who argued the tribe does not qualify for the federal trust land that would allow it to build First Light Resort & Casino. A U.S. District Court judge last year ruled in favor of the neighbors, and the tribe appealed to the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The appeal was put on hold while the U.S. Department of the Interior considered whether the tribe qualified for land under a different legal category than the one rejected by the court. The Interior Department in June found the tribe does not qualify for land under the alternative definition, but left open its review to consider another possibility: whether the state’s authority could stand in for the federal government’s authority in connection with taking land into trust.

James Cason, associate deputy secretary of the Department of the Interior, has asked for representatives on both sides to consider once again whether the tribe was recognized by the federal government in 1934, the threshold for taking land in trust for tribes under the Indian Reorganization Act.

Cason believes there may be an opportunity to recognize the tribe’s relationship

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 6)
## Events Calendar

### New Events
- **September 10** – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  General Body Meeting, MWTCGC
- **September 14** – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
  Community Development Corporation Community Meeting, MWTCGC
- **September 15**
  Education Scholarship Applications Due, MWTCGC
- **September 16** – 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
  Peacemakers Training, MWTCGC
- **September 16** – 11:00 a.m.
  Ancestor’s Day, Old Indian Meeting House
- **September 17** – 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
  Peacemakers Training, MWTCGC
- **September 18**
  RSVP for College Visits Due, MWTCGC
- **September 29**
  Rental Lottery Applications Due, MWTCGC

### Weekly Events
- **Tuesdays** – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
  Elders Lunch & Learn, MWTCGC
- **Tuesdays and Thursdays** – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
  Coed Volleyball, MWTCGC
- **Wednesdays** – 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
  Tribal Health Yoga Classes with Yoga Neighborhood, MWTCGC
- **Thursdays** – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
  Elders Lunch & Learn, MWTCGC
- **Thursdays** – 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
  Tribal Health Zumba with Shirley, MWTCGC
- **Fridays** – 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
  Tribal Health Zumba with Shirley, MWTCGC
- **Sundays** – 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
  Tribal Health Zumba with Shirley, MWTCGC

### Monthly Events
- **1st Tuesday** – 6:00 p.m.
  Chief’s Circle, Old Indian Meeting House

### Food Pantry Hours
- **Monday**: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday**: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday**: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Thursday**: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

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## Welcome Roderick Anthony Clark, Jr.

Reene and Roderick A. Clark would like to announce the birth of their son Roderick Anthony Clark, Jr. Roderick Jr. was born 4 weeks early weighing 6 lbs. and 2 oz. on May 10. In this photo Roderick Jr. is being held by his sister Tayani, they’re the grandchildren of Cheryl Avant - Clark and Roderick Clark, and the great grandchildren of the late Carole Avant, Thatcher and James Thatcher and the late Elsie Avant, Ervin.

## Marques Hicks Excels at Junior Olympics

Congratulations to Marques Hicks who earned three All-American honors in the AAU National Championship Junior Olympics! This took place in Michigan during the first week in August 2017. To get there, he won first place in the District 12 race in New Jersey, then qualified in the Regionals, then on to the AAU National Championship Junior Olympics, in which he won medals in the 100 meter and 200 meter races, and the long jump.

Marques is the son of Danica and Antoine Hicks, grandson of Beverly Cash, and great grandson of Jessie and James E. Cash. Congrats Marques, we’re all so proud of you!

## Miles Bernadett Peters Appointed to Design Review Committee

The On July 24 the Mashpee Board of Selectman appointed Mashpee Wampanoag Citizen Miles Bernadett Peters to the town of Mashpee Design Review Committee. Miles was appointed to a 1-year term and joins committee members Michael Mendoza, Joseph Cummings and John Furbush.

In the professional world, Miles is a member of the architectural staff at Jill Neubauer Architects in Falmouth, MA. Prior to his work with Jill Neubauer Architects, Miles was a designer at Cape Associates and an intern with JCJ Architects. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture from Portland State University.

The Design Review Committee was established to review the architectural and design concerns; which include, but not limited to: site planning, building placement, building size, design compatibility, exterior appearance, construction materials and finishes used, parking and roadways, landscaping and site grading, building entrance and exit placement of signs and also address signs which require a Special Permit. The results of this committee are then submitted to the Building Inspector, Planning Board and Board of Appeals to advise them accordingly.
Toing the college tour is an important part of selecting the right school, but it’s also expensive and a challenge to coordinate. To help ease some of this burden, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department is organizing college visits to seven schools – Bacone College, Harvard University, Haskell Indian Nations University, Institute of American Indian Arts, New York University, University of New Mexico and University of California. Air fare and lodging for the student and a parent/guardian is included.

To schedule a visit to any of these schools, you must RSVP by September 18 by calling the Education Department at (508) 477-0208 ext. 178 or (508) 237-0041. Ask for Scott Shepherd, education department assistant director; or John Hanlon, Building Pathways for Tribal Youth manager.

Community Development Corporation to Host Community Meeting on September 14

The Mashpee Wampanoag Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) will host a community meeting on Thursday, September 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center in Mashpee. The meeting, which will provide the tribal citizens with an overview of the MWCDC and its goals, was originally scheduled for July 20 but was rescheduled for September 14.

President of the MWCDC Mark Harding sees this as an opportunity to not only educate the Tribe on the work they’ve done but also to gain valuable input from the community on the direction of the corporation. “We all have an interest in the achievements of our CDC,” said Mark. “Other Tribe’s around Indian Country are having a tremendous amount of success generating revenue, jobs, resources and housing through community development corporations, just like ours. We’ve got a great opportunity to build a successful portfolio of businesses, but to get this off the ground we’re going to need input from the community…it’s one of the reasons we’ll be holding these community meetings.”

According to the MWCDC bylaws the Corporation will hold at least two meetings annually open to the tribal community to gather input and feedback.

The MWTDC Board of Directors includes President Mark Harding, Vice President Tara Collier, Treasurer Nancy Rose, Secretary Steven Peters, Winnie Johnson-Graham, Talia Landry, Morgan Peters, Stephanie Sfiridis and Angela Shwom. The Corporation was organized to engage in activities that will promote the social welfare, economic security and community development of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and its enrolled citizens that will enable the Tribe to be self-sufficient and to provide economic support for its tribal citizens.
On Thursday, July 27th, the Mashpee Wampanoag Summer Youth Program welcomed a group of international Indigenous artists from the Cultural Survival Summer Bazaars series to camp. From four countries - and speaking six languages - the artists included Ganna Nepiyivoda (Hutsul from Ukraine), Amalia Palomino (Quechua from Peru), Ujjwal Srestha (from Nepal), and Akhtar Mir (Kashmiri from India).

Each artist met with small groups of tribal youth to explain their traditional art form, ranging from intricately painted eggs made using wax and a heated tool, paper making, weaving, and retablos - carved and painted wooden scenes of life in the Andes mountains of Peru. Students also had a chance to try their hands at painting retablos, dyeing eggs, wrapping scarves, and learning about traditional paper making.

The Cultural Survival guest artists were excited to tour the Mukayuhsak Weeku Wópanâak language preschool and kindergarten, and to learn about traditional Wampanoag cooking while enjoying a turkey and squash soup and roasted Atlantic striper, before leaving to tour the Tribal Museum.

Photo credits: Cultural Survival (cs.org)

Summer Camp Wraps Up with Annual Clambake
Supporting Community Wellness and Strength

The 14th Annual Direct Service Tribes National Meeting with Indian Health Services (IHS) was held August 1-3 in Danvers Massachusetts. The two-day event focused on supporting community wellness and strength, and incorporated an open forum with many discussions on addressing some of the most pressing health priorities such as: fighting the opioid crisis in Indian Country, integration of traditional medicine, partnering to improve service to Indian veterans, childhood obesity and improving child and adolescence wellbeing, and delivering patient centered care.

As a regional host, several tribal members were in attendance at the meeting with Eastern Suns signing a flag song and honor song and Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Cedric Cromwell providing the opening remarks at the annual event. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe also hosted a cultural evening with social songs performed by Eastern Suns for all attending.

Above is a photo of Cheryl Frye-Cromwell, tribal council member and health and human services liaison, with William Harris, chief of the Catawba Indian Nation, at the National Meeting. Cheryl and William represent the Nashville Area IHS – Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee. There are nine area regions represented across the US.

IN THE NEWS

One Open Seat on Enrollment Committee
The Enrollment Committee is looking for a dedicated Tribal citizen interested in helping to oversee the Tribe’s enrollment process. Presently there is one open seat for a three-year term on the Enrollment Committee. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please send a letter of interest to enrollmentcommittee@mwtribe-NSN.gov and Francie Dottin, executive administrative assistant to the chairman, at frances.dottin@mwtribe-NSN.gov.

The Enrollment Committee and the Enrollment Department are dedicated to the scrutiny of our Tribal roll and by all accounts hold our citizens’ information in the highest confidentiality.

Rental Lottery Applications (continued)

Over eight years ago Tribal Citizen Stanley Dutra wanted to find a way to formally remember, celebrate and honor our family and friends that have passed on to the spirit world. With that purpose Ancestor’s Day was created. Eight years later our Old Indian Meeting House Committee is pleased to continue this annual event and will be hosting the 8th Annual Ancestor’s Day on Saturday, September 16.

The day will open at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Indian Meeting House. Following the service there will be a potluck at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center.

This is a day for Tribal Citizens and family to spend with their ancestors with time set aside for cleaning gravesites and sharing stories of our loved ones. The Old Indian Meeting House Committee will also have a variety of bulbs available for planting in honor of our ancestors.

Annual Ancestor’s Day September 16

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Peacemaking Training September 16 & 17
Do you want to learn more about peacemaking? There will be a free training on Saturday, September 16 and Sunday, September 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center.

The free peacemaking training is presented by Paul Raphael from the Odawa Tribe.

For more information, or to RSVP contact the Tribal Court at (508) 477-0208 ext. 190 or visit www.mwtribejudicial.com.
with the government of Massachusetts at that time as a proxy for federal recognition.

Before the United States existed, the tribe had been under the jurisdiction of the British Crown after King Philip’s War in the late 1600s. The colonists put the losers onto reservations, and social disruption and disease as a result of proximity with colonists reduced their numbers and voices. Colonial growth and expansion made it easier to ignore the duty to protect the Mashpee people and their property. This amounts to a dereliction of duty to protect the tribe.

The de facto anti-Indian policies (takings and subdivisions of land, forced conversion to Christianity, removing children from families) ate away at the cohesion and cultural identity of the tribe. The Department of Interior validated the Mashpee identity with its federal recognition in 2007. That decision appears to be incongruent with any eventual rejection of the tribe’s effort to take land in trust.

East Taunton residents have every right to resist, but the tribe’s land purchase was a zoned and designated industrial area. Within a very small radius are such other neighbors as a school, a new, large church, an expansive furniture warehouse, one of Taunton’s largest building construction contractors, and a number of other industrial firms.

The commonwealth’s compact and the city’s community agreement with the tribe are intended to take all those neighbors into consideration. A casino may be an effective tool for economic development for the tribe, and those agreements are intended to ensure that it is effective for Taunton — and East Taunton — as well.

However, no one can predict whether that would be the outcome, so the litigating neighbors are understandably fraught with uncertainty and fear, but the centuries of interaction between indigenous peoples and immigrants in Massachusetts have too frequently found the tribes on the losing end.

In last month’s congressional hearing to discuss options for repairing the language of the reorganization act, the chief of Maine’s Penobscot Nation testified that clarifying the laws is about far more than a casino.

“Tribes’ ability to regain their homelands is not only critical for them to be able to overcome economic disparity, education outcome disparities, housing disparities ... but it’s also at the very core of cultural identity,” he said.

If Congress is able to provide a prescription for the incongruities of the reorganization act, we would be pleased to see the Mashpee’s land-into-trust affirmed. And despite our opinion that casino gambling’s promises are far from a sure thing, we support the Mashpee Wampanoag right to use their land as they choose.

**Department of Interior Review Update**

The Tribe submitted its supplemental filing, which was due on August 31, 2017. The supplemental filing addressed the Department of Interior’s question concerning the “complex issue arising from the unique historical relationship of the Commonwealth, Tribe and the Federal Government.”

The Littlefield Plaintiffs were also asked to submit material on August 31. The Tribe will receive a copy of all materials submitted by the Plaintiffs.

The Tribe and the Plaintiffs are now able to review all materials submitted by the Tribe and the Plaintiffs to the Department of Interior and submit response. The Tribe and the Plaintiffs have 60 days (on or before October 30, 2017) to respond on the record.

Following the responses that are submitted on or before October 30, 2017 the Department of Interior will then review all materials and render a decision. The Department of Interior has not issued a deadline for this decision. A decision from the DOI could reaffirm the Tribe’s land in trust status.

**RFP: Tribal Museum Bathroom Contract**

 Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Historic Preservation Department is seeking proposals from qualified contractors of various trades for construction of a bathroom (detached structure) for the Indian Museum. Deadline for proposals submittals will be September 18th, 2017. Copies of the RFP may be picked up at The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Historic Preservation Department Office 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee, MA. The RFP may also be requested by calling (508) 477-0208 ext. 102 or by e-mail at David.Weeden@mwtribe-nsn.gov. Proposals received from qualified Native American Contractors will be given preference.

(USDA Grant Funded)
Tribe Receives AmeriCorps Indian Tribes Grant

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Management (EM) Department is pleased to announce that they were just awarded a $40,000 AmeriCorps Indian Tribes Grant specifically for program planning. The grant will allow the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to develop a plan for becoming an official AmeriCorps program site.

AmeriCorps is a federally-funded, nationwide service program in which young people serve as community service members, dedicating their time and skills to serving with a nonprofit, school, public agency, or community organization. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps students gain valuable work experience, are often able to defer their student loans, and receive a modest living allowance during their AmeriCorps experience which usually lasts from 3 months to a year.

The funding for this initial planning year is provided through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Roxanne Brown from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Planning and Development Team worked alongside the EM department to put together a remarkable grant application.

Over the next year, the planning team will be led by Emergency Management Director Nelson Andrews Jr. who has over ten years in Federal Emergency Management experience. Nelson will oversee the development of the plan and the eventual operation of the AmeriCorps program. The other team member, Emergency Preparedness Specialist Allyssa Hathaway, is an AmeriCorps alum and spent 9 months as an AmeriCorps member at the Hoopa Tribal Civilian Community Corps in Hoopa, CA.

Once the plan is developed and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is established as an AmeriCorps site, the focus of this AmeriCorps program will be Disaster Services and Disaster Intervention. The curricula for the program will reflect topics that fall within these key areas as well as critical trainings, including Hazmat (hazard materials) Mitigation, Emergency Medical Response, and Basic Life Support.

To publicize the opportunity nationally, the EM Planning team will advertise on Facebook and develop a recruitment brochure to post and mail out, targeting youth across Indian Country. Throughout the planning process, two (2) tribal community meetings will be also be scheduled encouraging young Mashpee Wampanoag adults, 18-27 years old, interested in AmeriCorps to participate.

MassHealth Information for College Students – Premium Assistance Program

If you currently have MassHealth coverage, you may be able to enroll in your school’s health insurance plan, without paying any more than you currently do. If you qualify, you will be automatically enrolled into your school’s SHIP (Student Health Insurance Plan) and MassHealth will pay for your SHIP premium. You will get more benefits, without paying more through this MassHealth Premium Assistance Program.

How to Get Started
Make sure you enter your 12-digit MassHealth ID number when you fill out information on your school’s waiver form. You can find your MassHealth ID number on your MassHealth ID card.

After you submit your information through your school’s waiver process, you will be emailed updates about the status of your submission.

If you are eligible, MassHealth will mail you a letter to verify that you have been enrolled in the MassHealth Premium Assistance Program.

If you have questions about your eligibility for the Premium Assistance Program, call MassHealth Premium Assistance at 1-855-273-5903. Or our Tribal Health Support Services Program at (508) 477-0208 ext. 166.
Applying for Education Scholarships: Due September 15

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department is pleased to share the scholarship application dates for the fall school semester. Applications for the fall semester will be available from June 15, 2017 thru September 15, 2017. Applications will be available on the start date of availability and students are encouraged to submit their completed applications as soon as possible.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe scholarship applications will be available on the Tribe’s website www.mashpeewampanoag-tribe-nsn.gov on the Education Department page. You may also pick up a hard copy of the application in the lobby of the Tribal Community and Government Center. Completed applications must be mailed to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department at 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee, MA 02649 or hand delivered. Applications must be received or postmarked by September 15, 2017. Faxed applications will no longer be accepted.

Please remember to complete all fields in the application, as incomplete applications will not receive funding. Also, all documents must be submitted together. For more information, please contact Anne Foxx in the Education Department at (508) 477-0208 ext 151 or at anne.foxx@mwtribe-nsn.gov.

Are you a Veteran?

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s Veteran Supportive Services is looking for ways to give back, BUT WE NEED YOUR INPUT!!!

We will be collaborating with the Veterans Outreach Center and want you to share your vision as to how we can help you in your times of need and coordinate services. Please complete the form below, attach a copy of your DD214, Photo ID, and Social Security Card and send it back to:

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
HHS Veteran Supportive Services
483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, MA 02649
Attention: Cassie Jackson

For more information please contact: Cassie Jackson
Emergency Service Specialist
(508) 477-0208 Ext. 142

Our Children Need You! Foster an ICWA Child

ICWA is currently seeking foster parents. Do you have room in your heart to provide a Native American foster home for our future generations? Our Native children of all ages, from infancy to teens, are being removed from their families at an alarming rate by the Department and Families and are being placed in non-native homes. ICWA is in high need of stable and nurturing families to care for our children and be reunited with their parents.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about becoming a foster family, emergency placement, and respite care please contact Catherine Hendricks, ICWA Director, at (508) 477-0208 ext 144.

Are you a victim of, or do you know someone that is a victim of domestic violence? You are not alone and help is available.

The Emergency Services Program at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe provides support to victims facing domestic violence. Through this program victims are able to receive emergency funding, referral and/or advocacy assistance. It’s the goal of the program to equip tribal citizens with the appropriate resources to live violent-free and become self-sufficient.

For more information, please contact Cassie Jackson, HHS Emergency Service Specialist, at (508) 477-0208 ext. 142.

In the event of an emergency, always dial 911
Cape Cod A.A. Meeting Schedule

Below is a schedule of some of the AA meetings that take place in Mashpee and the surrounding community. Please note that meetings coded with “Closed” are for alcoholics only. The public is welcome to attend open meetings that are coded with “Open”.

Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contribution. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses or opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Inclusion in this meeting list does not constitute or imply approval or endorsement of a groups approach to, or practice of, the tradition of the A.A. Program or the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Tribal Action Plan.

For more information about A.A. contact the Cape Cod Intergroup at (508) 775-7060, email ccaa@capecodaa.net or visit them online at www.capecodaa.net.

Barnstable, H “Village Group” Unitarian Church, 30 Rt. 6A | Closed 12 Step | Thursdays – 7:30 p.m.
Centerville “Compass” Our Lady of Victory, 230 South Main St. | Open Discussion | Saturdays – 7:30 p.m.
Centerville “Be Still” Closed Meditation, Congregational Church, 565 Main St. | Women’s Group 11 Step | Mondays – 6:30 p.m.
Centerville Congregational Church, 565 Main St. | Open Discussion | Wednesdays – 7:30 p.m.

TAP Coordinating Rides to Recovery Meetings

If you are a person in recovery and willing to provide a safe ride to the meeting you attend please contact Tracy Kelley at (508) 477-0208 ext. 150. Your phone number and the town where your meeting is located will be listed in the Mittark monthly, but not your name. Kutâputush!

Parents Supporting Parents in Mashpee

Parents Supporting Parents (PSP) is a support group for parents and family members coping and dealing with their loved one’s Substance Use Disorder (SUD). “Sharing without shame.”

PSP meets every Monday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. except for the first Monday of the month when the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Mashpee Chamber of Commerce, 5 North Market Street in Mashpee. The office is located between Baer’s Pet Depot and Woodruff’s Art Center.

You are not alone! PSP shares without shame or judgment, and hope that on this journey we can help educate and support each other and know that there is hope for recovery.

For more information please call (508) 419-3434 or email capecodpsp@aol.com. You can also visit them online at www.parentssupportingaddiction.com. PSP’s mission is to support, strengthen and educate ourselves, as well as others, as we help our children find and live in recovery, and for all family members to live a healthy lifestyle. Meetings are open to all members of the family.
Transcending Historical Trauma

The process is not quick nor is it easy. However, without such commitment to healing the past, we will not be able to address the resultant trauma and prevent the continuation of such atrocities in the present. Nor will we be able to provide the positive and healthy community activism needed to stop and prevent the social pathologies of suicide, homicide, domestic violence, child abuse, and alcoholism so prevalent in American Indian communities – as in society at large – today.

The crux of our argument has far reaching implications for other colonized, oppressed peoples throughout history and those being oppressed, as we write, that are obvious to us. Wherever peoples are being decimated and destroyed, subsequent generations will suffer. We need only heed the traditional American Indian wisdom that, in decisions made today, we must consider the impact upon the next seven generations.

Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart has given a huge gift to our Native people. While the healing circle is growing to encompass the world, the work of Wisdom of the Elders, Inc. in Portland, Oregon is another example of how Maria’s work is bearing healing fruit for Native communities.

The Mother of Historical Trauma

According to Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart, widely regarded as the mother of historical trauma, “First is confronting the historical trauma. Second is understanding the trauma. Third is releasing the pain of historical trauma. Fourth is transcending the trauma.” As exemplified by the stories of Grandmother Wilkins and Woody Morrison, this means we must tell our story and the story of our elders and ancestors.

In our view, community healing along with individual and family healing are necessary to thoroughly address historical unresolved grief and its present manifestations.

Tribal Child Welfare Jurisdiction

The article we are sharing this month addresses a critical aspect of the ICWA law, Termination of Parental Rights as written in the “Tribal Child Welfare Codes as Sovereignty in Action” developed by the Native Nations Institute and NICWA. We will continue to examine Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) and the alternatives to TPR.

Alternatives to TPR

Some tribes, finding TPR to be culturally incongruent with their traditions, beliefs, and practice, have sought alternatives that would have a less extreme effect on parent-child relationships. Many tribes believe that because a child’s identity and best interest is so deeply rooted in the interconnectedness and interdependency with the tribe, to sever these ties in any way is a cultural violence to the child. This study found that a handful of tribes have created statutes that allow several levels of restriction on parental rights, such as suspension, modification, or complete cessation, while some other specify TPR as only a last resort in addressing abuse and neglect problems or have disallowed TPR altogether (although the Social Security Act Title IV-§ funding program previously required tribes to include TPR in their codes, specified alternatives to complete termination of parental rights may be sufficient for funding purposes).

These codes embed cultural concerns or values into tribal practice in various ways. Examples include allowing for a continued relationship between the parent and child even if the child has a different permanent caregiver; creating and protecting specific parental rights even where a parent can no longer provide primary care for a child; allowing parents to have rights and primary caregiving responsibilities reinstated if they are rehabilitated; and retaining the child’s tribal citizenship even when a child is no longer the legal child of a tribal citizen. Tribes also can provide for customary adoptions or other traditional childcare practices.

Such alternatives not only integrate tribal values and cultural practices into the most drastic resolution of abuse and neglect issues, but they also allow either temporary or permanent placement with a relative or adoptive parent without completely severing the child’s relationship with natural parents and extended family.
2018-2019 “RENTAL SUBSIDY” LOTTERY!

Income eligibility requirements

15 SLOTS! Up to $300.00/month for two years!
5 slots reserved for those 65 & older/Disabled group

NOTE: If you have had services from the housing department within the last two years you will not be able to receive this Rental Subsidy. A waiting list will be created in the event someone chosen does not qualify or drops out.

Complete the form below and drop it off in the locked box located at the front desk of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center

Apply by: Friday, September 29, 2017

- Applicants must be a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe or a member of another Federally Recognized Tribe residing in the service area of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, which includes the following five (5) Massachusetts counties: Barnstable, Bristol, Plymouth, Norfolk, and Suffolk.
- Applicants must meet all income and eligibility requirements of HUD and the Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department. The family income cannot exceed 80 percent of the median income for the County.
- Financial assistance cannot be provided if a family is paying over 50% of the gross income for rent.
- All household members must provide a social security card and Tribal ID (if applicable).
- All household members 18 and over must provide current income documentation and sign a release of information form authorizing the Housing Department to speak and obtain information from any source necessary for the purpose of providing assistance.
- A copy of the lease must be provided to the Housing Department.
- The landlord is required to sign a W-9 before payment can be disbursed.
- If an applicant is currently receiving a rental subsidy from another source (i.e., Section 8), then the applicant is not eligible to receive an additional subsidy from the Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department.
- The maximum subsidy available is up to $300 per month for twenty-four (24) months. The monthly subsidy cannot exceed 50% of the total rent. The applicant must demonstrate their ability to pay the balance of the rent, prior to approval.

Complete all questions so that your Rental Subsidy Lottery application is in the correct drawing box!

Name: ________________________________

Contact Number: ________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________

Annual Income: ____________________________ Household Member #: __________________________

Tribal ID: ________________________________

[ ] 65 or Older [ ] Disabled [ ] Age 18-64
Prayer Fires

The Chief’s Circle would like to offer tribal members guidance about the Prayer Fires used in dedication to our departed family members. These fires are considered sacred spaces where the tribal community can make tobacco offerings that carry their prayers to the departed spirit. The place chosen on your property for the Prayer Fire is regarded as sacred ceremonial ground forever. It becomes a place for your family to return when spiritual guidance from within is needed.

The immediate family members are the only ones that decide whether or not to have a Prayer Fire at their home site. It is not a requirement of any kind that a Prayer Fire is lit. Families may instead, choose to have one dedicated at the Meeting House grounds the day of the funeral or not have one at all. We must honor the family wishes with support in whatever manner they choose to grieve. Grieving is a very important part of life. When grieving is done thoroughly, the family can accept the passing and take their place in the tribal circle with a healthy heart.

It is very important that the tribal community respectfully support the family during these tender days following their loss. It is not appropriate to impose ourselves on their decisions, enter their homes without invitation, nor take anything that isn’t offered to you, or linger longer than necessary to make the tobacco offering. The Prayer Fires for traditionalists are usually lit the same day or night of the passing and kept burning until the burial rites are held. This fire can last for three days and nights and sometimes more, until the funeral day. No one other than the Fire Keeper should stay overnight. The entire time period from lighting the fire until it is put out, is a ceremony. People should make their prayer offering of tobacco in the fire and then leave. It is not appropriate to remain at the home of a grieving family socializing around the Prayer Fire. Firewood should be cut and split before dropping it off. Nothing but wood and tobacco should be put in a Prayer Fire.

Absolutely no drugs, alcohol, or intoxicated persons are allowed near a Prayer Fire. Do not tolerate anyone breaking this rule; gently teach them about protecting sacred space.

On Behalf Chief Silent Drum
Ramona Nosapocket Peters 8.7.17

Quaker Picnic

Please join the Sandwich Quakers for potluck picnic on Sunday, September 17 at 11:30 a.m. The picnic is being held at the Quaker Meeting house in East Sandwich at 6 Quaker Road in Sandwich.

For more information, please contact Gail Melix at (508) 221-0832.
On Wednesday, August 23, 2017 the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council moved to permanently close the MWT New Bedford Satellite office located at 1913 Purchase Street in New Bedford, MA.

The New Bedford office will close on **September 14, 2017**.

As of Monday, August 28, 2017 a “Soft Close” will be initiated for all Tribal member services received from the New Bedford office.

As a matter of transition, the New Bedford office will remain open on Tuesdays and Thursdays only, through September 14, 2017.

All requests for Tribal Transportation should continue to be directed to Transportation Coordinator, Latoya Green at the Transportation's direct line is 508-477-5800 ext. 11

This decision was primarily based on cost efficiency.

The MWT New Bedford area satellite office initially opened in 2011, providing a variety of direct services to Tribal members in the Bristol County area.

With the development of a subsequent Tribal Transportation program, Tribal families were better able to receive services from the Tribal headquarters in Mashpee, resulting in less frequent visitation to the New Bedford office.

Resources dedicated to the satellite office will be re-assigned to the main offices in Mashpee.