Chairman’s Column

Greetings Tribal Family,

Are you ready to powwow on our ancestral homeland? It’s going to be a beautiful homecoming. It’s been several years since we have hosted our annual powwow on tribal land and bringing it back now just feels right. Just thinking about it fills me with pride knowing that we are on the right path and that our ancestors are looking down on us today in approval.

Even as I write this I can hear the sound of the drum, feel the pulse of our dancers as they leave their mark on their homeland, and smell the fritters and fish cakes our traditional cooks will be stirring up at our 97th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow.

With the powwow returning to tribal lands, it was only fitting that this year’s powwow committee landed on “A Traditional Homecoming” as the theme. It’s truly special to return the powwow to traditional lands and a very appropriate theme.

Speaking of our 2018 Powwow Committee, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the tremendous amount of hard work they have put in over the past few months. The committee Chairman Brian Weeden, Secretary Cassie Jackson, treasurer Clayton “CJ” Oakley-Robbins, and committee members Delscena Hicks, Eleanor “Tootie” Coombs, Winona Hendricks, and Marcy Hendricks who all deserve a lot of credit for making this happen.

In June, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Housing Department took another step forward with the new housing development on Meeting House Road when it began accepting bids from qualified General Contractors the construction of the development.

Qualified general contractors were invited to participate a pre bid walk-thru on either June 18 or June 29 at the construction site of the new low-income housing development on tribal lands.

Contractors are able to submit sealed bids until July 11, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. Sealed bid packages can be obtained by emailing ridigital@e-arc.com. Completed packages must be sent to Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community & Government Center/Housing Department at 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee, MA 02649.

The new development will include the following:

- 8 duplex homes (16 units) – 2 bed room and 1 bath approx. 2,556 sf.
- 13 “Cape Cod” single-family homes – 3 bedroom 2 bath, approx. 1,531 sf
- 13 “Ranch” single-family homes – 3 bedroom 2 bath approx. 1,350 sf

Open Enrollment and Open House at Mukayuhsak Weekuww
(The Children’s House)

The Children’s House team invites you to visit the Wôpanâak language immersion preschool and kindergarten classrooms on Thursday, July 12th from 4:30-6:30 p.m. to learn about enrolling your child for the 2018-2019 academic year beginning in mid-September. Pre-Registration forms are also available online at www.wlrp.org/sign-up-form.html

Registration forms may also be picked up at the Language Department from director Jennifer Weston (ext. 168) or requested via email as well (jweston@wlrp.org).

Youth Environment Science Camp

Native youth in 6-8th grade are invited to attend the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Natural Resources and Education Departments Summer Youth Environmental Science Camp being held July 16 to August 2. The Native Youth in Science Preserving Our Homeland camp will be held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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New Events

July 6, 7 & 8
97th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow, MWTCGC Powwow Grounds

July 15 – 11:00 a.m.
Blind Jo Amos Sunday Service, Old Indian Meeting House

July 15 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
General Body Meeting, MWTCGC

August 12 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
General Body Meeting, MWTCGC

August 20 to 24
Field Trip Camp, MWTCGC

Weekly Events

Mondays – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Finding My Medicine, 55 Acres (starts July 19)

Mondays – 11:00 a.m.
Crazy 8 Walking Club, MWTCGC

Mondays – 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Dancing Moon Yoga, MWTCGC

Tuesdays – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Elders Lunch & Learn, MWTCGC

Tuesdays – 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 – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Finding My Medicine, 55 Acres (starts July 19)

Thursdays – 11:00 a.m.
Crazy 8 Walking Club, MWTCGC

Thursdays – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Elders Lunch & Learn, MWTCGC

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

Tribal ID’s July 2 and 3

The Enrollment Department will be open for Tribal ID’s on Monday and Tuesday, July 2 and 3.

Powwow To Be Held On Federally Recognized Land

The 97th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow will be returning home to tribal lands on Great Neck Road South next weekend after several years at Cape Cod Fairgrounds.

The tribe’s homeland brings a special meaning to the event, and the Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow Committee appropriately titled this year’s theme “A Traditional Homecoming.” Hosting the event on tribal lands allows tribal members to have a better connection to their ancestors, an important aspect to a powwow.

“This is something that our community has wanted and has been waiting for,” said the acting chairman of the powwow committee, Brian M. Weeden. “It’s a different feeling. On the fairgrounds in Falmouth, it felt like a celebration. Here on the grounds, you can feel the connection to your ancestors.”

Also of significance, the tribe recently lost one of its elders. Helen M. (Lopez) Edwards of Mashpee, 98, died on May 27. Mr. Weeden said that she was the oldest in the tribe and that the powwow can help heal from the loss.

“The tribe had held the powwow at the traditional grounds but moved to the fairgrounds during construction of the government center.

Hosting the yearly event on federally recognized land also allows the tribe to let the wider community know why it has fought so hard for the last several years, if not decades, to have its land held in trust.

“To host our annual homecoming celebration on sovereign reservation land is truly empowering,” Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council chairman Cedric Cromwell said. “Our people have a sacred connection to it, which is why we are pushing hard to get legislation passed that would protect it as such from those who seek to sever our ties to our ancestral homeland.”

Currently, the tribe’s land status, in the eyes of the federal government, is in a bit of a limbo. While it remains sovereign, a lawsuit filed by East Taunton residents threatens the 2015 US Department of the Interior decision to name the tribe’s land a reservation. In a parallel track, however, the US Senate and US House of Representatives have bills filed on the tribe’s behalf that would override the lawsuit, should the bills pass.

“It is my hope that many of our friends and allies will be there next week to learn about and celebrate our rich culture, as well as show their support for us moving into the future,” Mr. Cromwell said.

The annual event will be held near the Mashpee Wampanoag Government Center at 483 Great Neck Road South on July, 6, 7 and 8 at the traditional Powwow Grounds. Visitors can expect traditional and elegantly dressed dancers, traditional drumming, and Wampanoag cuisine including fish chowder and snapping turtle soup.

Gates for the ceremony will open daily at 10 AM. Dancing begins at 1 PM with competitions throughout the day. The clambake will take place on Sunday, and fireball will be played on Saturday at dusk.

The tribe also will offer shuttles to and from the event. Satellite parking will be offered at Cape Cod Children’s Museum and the Community Health Center of Cape Cod near South Cape Village.
Open Enrollment & Open House at Mukayuhsak Weekuw (The Children’s House) (continued)

Once a completed pre-registration or registration form has been received, parents will be contacted to schedule an exploratory classroom visit for their child and to meet with staff regarding the Parent Language Contract and the Orientation Process. Children should be at least 2 years and nine months old to enroll. (Applications will also be accepted for students who will reach the age of enrollment for the second semester beginning in January 2019.)

Mukayuhsak Weekuw is a Montessori language nest providing Wôpanâak language instruction across curriculum areas throughout the school day (8:30-3:30). Children must enroll for a minimum of 3 full days weekly, though 4-5 days per week is preferred so that students can develop their independence, learn the classroom routines, and increase their involvement with the daily language songs and curriculum content. Kindergarten students (age 5 and older) also receive limited English language instruction in key curriculum areas (math, science, English language arts) during an afternoon work session. Kindergarten students must enroll full-time (8:30-3:30 Mon-Fri). Limited after school slots are available for mukayuhsak from 3:30-4:30.

Monthly fees to attend Mukayuhsak Weekuw are $20, and families also must commit to providing daily lunches, attending regular language classes and monthly family nights and parent meetings. Families also participate in a rotating snack schedule and receive short shopping lists from the Mukayuhsak Weekuw nurse/nutritionist Jen Harding (Herring Pond Wampanoag), LPN. Mukayuhsak Weekuw’s Montessori-trained language teachers are Siobhan “Vonnie” Brown (Mashpee Wampanoag), Stephanie Lopez (Mashpee Wampanoag), Camille Madison (Aquinnah Wampanoag), and Tia Pocknett (Mi’kmaq Mashpee Wampanoag household member). Substitute Teachers are Eleanor “Toodie” Coombs (Mashpee Wampanoag) and Melanie Roderick (Assonet Wampanoag).

Chairman’s Column (continued)

also want to thank tribal council powwow committee co-liasons Winona Pocknett and Winnie Johnson-Graham.

Let’s also thank our powwow princess for giving her people 100% over the past year. Chenoa Peters has represented her Tribe well at community events, powwows (including the Bermuda Powwow last month), and as a shining example of positive leadership for her youth peers. It has been a pleasure to have Chenoa as powwow princess over the past year.

Hosting our annual homecoming celebration on sovereign reservation land is truly empowering for our people. We have a sacred connection to it, which is why we are pushing hard to get legislation passed that would forever protect it.

Powwow is an opportunity to share this special connection we have with the land with the larger community. It's my hope that many of our friends and allies will be at Powwow to learn about and celebrate our rich culture, as well as show their support for us moving into the future.

Support from our tribal members, friends and allies is always welcome. We currently have a tremendous amount of support within the federal government and on both sides of the aisle to see a permanent fix to protecting our land.

Looking forward to seeing all my relations at Powwow. Let’s show the world how Mashpee shines.

Kutâputunumuw;

Chairman Cedric Cromwell Qaqeemasq (Running Bear)
Field Trip Camp August 20-24 for Tribal Youth

Save the date for a week-long field trip camp. From August 20 to 24 the Indian Education Department will sponsor a series of field trips. Registration opens August 6 and space is limited. There’s only space for 20 campers.

To sign up, call Kitty Hendricks-Miller at (508) 477-0208 ext. 143. You may leave a voice mail to reserve space.

The schedule of trips include Canoeing and kayaking on Waquoit Bay with a Washburn Island Picnic, Whale Watch out of Hyannis, Boston Science Museum, A day in Oak Bluffs Martha’s Vineyard with pizza on the beach and Horseback Riding at Maushop Equestrian Center in Mashpee.

Lunch and snacks will be provided daily. Don’t forget to register on August 6.

Finding My Medicine: Cultural Practices for Tribal Youth

Members of the Mashpee School Committee and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council discussed the potential formal recognition by the school committee of the tribe’s early childhood Montessori language immersion classroom.

The discussion took place during the Mashpee School Committee’s second meeting with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Wednesday evening, June 6, at the Mashpee Wampanoag Community and Government Center on Great Neck Road South.

The first meeting, in October, marked the first time the school committee held its regular Wednesday meeting on sovereign Mashpee Wampanoag land.

The shared conversations aim to promote a spirit of inclusiveness and partnership between the school district and the tribe, said school committee member Nicole D. Bartlett, who worked with Patricia Keli’inui, the tribe’s public relations and communications manager, to arrange the meetings.

New school committee chairman Christopher C. Santos called the meetings “a very big step forward” in opening lines of communication.

Before the discussion about the Montessori school recognition, Superintendent Patricia M. DeBoer and Nitana Hicks Greendeer, the tribe’s director of education, shared highlights of the growing partnership between the schools and the tribe since the October meeting.

Carla A. Riley, coordinator of the Mashpee Public Schools Indian Education Program, also provided an update. Ms. Riley introduced Autumn Jackson, a junior at Mashpee High School, who proposed the idea of creating a canoe-shaped wooden planter and bench near the high school entrance as part of a plan to create Wampanoag-related student installations at each of the three schools.

The superintendent and school principals will discuss the project, which might be Autumn’s senior project next year, Mr. Santos said.

Among the highlights were the expansion this September of Wôpanâak language classes at Mashpee Middle-High School, which launched at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, to include a new level 2 course and to allow 8th graders to join the existing level 1 course.

Ms. DeBoer also noted a professional development program for Mashpee teachers and administrators led by Jessie (Little Doe) Baird, vice chairman of the tribal council.

In addition to Mashpee High School basketball games at the tribe’s government and community

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Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Workshops for MPS Conclude

This spring the MWT Language and Education department directors Jennifer Weston and Nitana Greendeer collaborated to deliver a ten-part professional learning series for educators in all three Mashpee public schools. More than two dozen teachers and administrators from Coombs, Quahsnet, and Mashpee Middle and High School participated throughout the professional development program held each Thursday afternoon 4-5 p.m. from April 5 through June 14.

Sessions included topics like “Teaching a Wampanoag Language and Culture Based Curriculum: A Year Round Framework based on Tribal Traditions and Homelands,” which incorporated the work of the tribal teachers at Mukayuhsak Weekuw (The Children’s House) immersion preschool and kindergarten classrooms at the MWT Community and Government Center. Teachers also were treated to film screenings and producer discussions for “Mashpee Nine: The Beat Goes On” and “We Still Live Here: Âs Nutayuneân.” In addition to culture based education strategies and practices, additional sessions provided overviews of historical and contemporary tribal governance, land rights, and Native civil rights. Key concepts reviewed throughout the series included treaties and treaty rights, tribal citizenship, and tribal sovereignty.

Weston developed the series in response to a request from Superintendent Patricia DeBoer after Vice Chairwoman’s three presentations on “The Mashpee Wampanoag: A Brief Sketch of Our History and Who We Are Today” were so well received at each of the local schools. MPS educators also had the chance to review original Wôpanâak language documents with linguists Greendeer and Baird, and to learn about the history of literacy among Wampanoag leadership and families beginning in the 17th century.

All presentations and materials are archived in a Google classroom for MPS educators and school committee members, and early planning is underway to implement a new series -- potentially incorporating hands-on curriculum development activities -- for the upcoming academic year.

Finding My Medicine: Cultural Practices for Tribal Youth

Mukayuhsak Weekuw (The Children’s House), closed out the academic year with a beautiful last day of school celebration with the students, teachers, family and friends. The teachers and staff of the Mukayuhsak Weekuw were so proud of the growth each student made throughout the year thanks to the leadership, love and nurturing care these precious little ones receive each day from their teachers.

The celebration included prayers, songs, a bridge ceremony for the new first grade students, awards for the mukayuhsak and gifts for the helpers.

The staff also wanted to say Kutâputunumuw to the Harvard University Native American Program kah Native American and Indigenous Studies at Brown for bringing gifts for our mukayuhsak!

Tribal Youth Saige Austin Excels in Fashion and Sports

When Saige Austin is not posing for the camera at one of the photo shoots she’s done for a Levi’s, she’s kicking up some serious dirt at a USA Track & Field sanctioned competitions. Saige competes in the 7-8 year old category in a variety of track and relay events. She is the daughter of Tammy Pocknett Austin, the granddaughter of the late Ronnie Pocknett and great granddaughter of the late Freddie Pocknett. Keep an eye out for Saige at the Junior Olympics.
Finding My Medicine: Cultural Practices for Tribal Youth (continued)

center earlier this year as well as guest speakers from the tribe at the schools and history-themed field trips. Quashnet Elementary School hosted a Wampanoag Day in March and Kenneth C. Coombs School recently hosted a Wampanoag Culture Week.

The Coombs school hopes to create a seasonal event celebrating Wampanoag culture, said Assistant Principal Scott I. Shepherd, who is a tribal member.

“We need to express who we are as a tribe and as Wampanoags,” he said.

“The first year [of the partnership between the schools and the tribe] has yielded a lot more than I expected,” Ms. Baird said. “It’s been very successful. The town could look at this as a model.”

David W. Weeden, a member of the tribal council and the Mashpee Planning Board, said he was impressed by the attentiveness and respect shown by the Mashpee students during his visits to the schools.

“The first year of the partnership between the schools and the tribe has yielded a lot more than I expected,” Ms. Baird said. “It’s been very successful. The town could look at this as a model.”

Ms. Baird agreed, saying that the two groups are not only relaying information but also “listening and being responsive to one another.”

“And we’re acting on it,” she said. “That’s what we’ve done so successfully this year.”

During the discussion about the tribe’s early childhood Montessori language immersion classroom, which is called Mukayuhsak Weekuw: The Children’s House, program director Jennifer Weston provided the school committee with a detailed overview of the “federally funded language nest” operated by the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, on tribal grounds.

The tribe initially launched Mukayuhsak Weekuw at a site in North Falmouth in September 2016 with 12 students, as part of an effort to revitalize the Wôpanâak language, which had not been regularly spoken for more than a century.

The private school, which has seven full-time teachers, follows a hands-on Montessori philosophy and serves preschool and kindergarten children (ages 2.9 to 6) who live in Wampanoag households where families use the Wôpanâak language together every day, Ms. Weston said.

“Mukayuhsak Weekuw is not yet accredited,” she said, “but we hold our teachers to high standards for training and certifications.”

Since most students at the school will attend Mashpee public schools as of grade 1, Ms. Weston said her team provides documentation of its curriculum to the school district on how its instructional techniques align with state Common Core standards.

Ms. Weston said the school is planning to grow to serve lower elementary (grades 1 to 3) students in the near future, with the hope of adding grade 1 in September.

Receiving recognition from the local school committee is the state’s regulatory process for private schools, she said, but if that does not happen by September, tribal parents who wish to keep their soon-to-be 1st graders in Mukayuhsak Weekuw next year are considering going through the approval process under the state’s homeschooling guidelines.

“We’re looking for recognition from the local school committee, not approval, since the school is on sovereign land,” she said.

Ms. Weston requested that the school committee grant their recognition by the end of the year and ideally by the start of school in September.

By Steven Withrow, Mashpee Enterprise
Mashpee Wampanoag Community Development Corporation Presentation

At the June 9th MWT General Body Meeting the Mashpee Wampanoag Community Development Corporation (CDC) presented a comprehensive presentation that highlighted plans to initiate a Tribal Utility Project. Megan Amsler, of the Cape Cod and Islands Self Reliance Corporation, presented a site assessment of solar and wind power energy opportunities. The CDC is also working with Baker Tilly Consultants who are experts in corporate structure management. The CDC has recently been awarded our third grant, in the sum of $94,000 from the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Energy and Mineral Management that will fund the initial infrastructure of this project.

The feedback from some community members, as well as some board members, were concerns about the location of wind farm sites. Therefore, with that in consideration, the board and evaluating panel discussed the final estimates and concluded that solar panels are ultimately a more economically feasible and culturally sensitive alternative.

Another question that was brought up by a tribal citizen was what was the reason that a community corporation was created and how the board was made up.

The CDC is “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.”

The CDC is a Board consists of at least nine Directors that are appointed by the Tribal Council/Shareholder Representatives. Two (2) positions on the Board may be filled by members of the Tribal Council. Which only one is currently filled by Shareholder Winnie Johnson-Graham. All directors are to be enrolled citizens of the Tribe. The Board is now made up with, Shareholder/ Tribal Councilor Winnie Johnson-Graham, President Mark Harding, Vice President Tara Collier, Treasurer Nancy Rose, Secretary Steven Peters, BoD members Talia Landry and Angela Shwom. With 2 seats still available open to Tribal members, as well as one for a council person.

The CDC would also like to acknowledge Nelson Andrews, our MWT Emergency Management Director, for administering the energy grants as we grow and develop the utility company infrastructure.

Tribally Owned Businesses are top performers in securing millions of dollars in government contracts. According to the Harvard Business School, “Tribally owned enterprises that are insulated from political interference are about four times as likely to be profitable as those that are not.” Insulating tribal business entities from political interference is accomplished by establishing a managing board of directors and a corporate charter that is beyond the direct control of tribal council members.

It is important to know the CDC sustains 4 core values: Equity, sustainability, traditional knowledge and a diverse economy. Within those values the board strives to consider key factors when determining the best structure for a particular activity and to segregate politics from business in order to free the tribal council from daily management of tribal businesses. We need to consider the Organizational structure on how the entity is formed, under what law is the entity formed, and who manages the entity. Sovereign Immunity is important to us as Tribes are governmental entities, which are not subject to suit. But this does constrict on trust in regards to the ability of lenders, investors, and business partners to enforce agreements and to protect their investment. Tax considerations with different federal income tax rules applying to different business types.

Also, state tax liability frequently depends on whether the business activity is conducted on or off an Indian reservation therefore giving us more decisions on what is economically and respectfully more beneficial to have on or off reservation land. Financing is huge and money for a business comes in two forms, debt and equity. Lenders generally do not dictate choice of business entity, but equity investors may specify what business structure you can choose.

Tribes are increasingly asserting control over their land, resources, and governance of their communities. Different tribes around the country are involved in a wide range of economic activities from tourism, gaming, energy, agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, federal contracting, and telecommunications. In many parts of the country, tribes are becoming regional economic and political power houses and becoming some of the largest regional employers. Tribal governments and tribal businesses engage in a wide range of business and financial transactions as sovereign nations have powers and capabilities not available to individuals.

The federal government provides strong incentives for Tribes to development these companies to empower Tribal economic self-sufficiency. Please reference some of these tribal corporations websites to see how they perform across Indian Country.

http://www.potawatomibdc.com/leadership
http://www.tulalipbroadband.com
https://www.alutiiq.com/about
Mashpee Wampanoag Community Development Corporation Receives Grant for Micro-Grid Eco-Village and Tribal Utility Corporation

The Mashpee Wampanoag Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) received a second grant from the Division of Energy and Mineral Development (DEMD) through its Energy and Mineral Development Program. The MWCDC received notice this week that it had been selected to receive $94,000 to further develop the Tribal Utility Corporation and a first of its kind micro-grid eco-village.

The eco-village will allow the MWCDC Tribal Utility Corporation to integrate the energy resources available to the Tribe with its facilities and support the Tribe’s new affordable housing development on Meeting House Road in Mashpee.

Mark Harding, president of the MWCDC, sees this as a natural venture for the Tribe. “At the heart of this development is the desire to close the loop with respect to natural resource production and use,” said Harding. “For centuries our people have understood the need to live and walk in harmony with the natural world. With this most recent grant, we’re now closer to incorporating those traditional ways into a modern business model.”

To assist the MWCDC it has contracted with Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP and other consultants. Baker Tilly has been working closely with the MWCDC from the initial grant award in 2016 from the DEMD in the amount of $310,000 and will continue its work with the MWCDC through the most recent grant award.

From 2016 to 2017 Baker Tilly and the MWCDC performed a preliminary feasibility study of the development of a Tribal Utility Authority, as well as the assessment of wind and solar resources on tribal lands. These studies found that deployment of solar energy generation as a viable path to offset energy costs, generate revenue, and reduce the Tribe’s carbon footprint while building internal capacity as it relates to the development and management of energy assets.

“We’re very excited to continue our work with Baker Tilly on this project and seeing it through to completion,” said Harding. “This really is a first of its kind project and when completed should serve as a model for other native communities and other non-tribal governments that want to explore the benefits of a smart, micro-grid eco-village.”

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Dietitian at IHS Spearheads Community Garden

Thanks to the hard work of Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Health Services Dietitian Lesley McKeen, there is now a community garden located at the Mashpee Wampanoag Community and Government Center.

Lesley is very excited about growing healthy habits among the community with the new garden. “I’ve been working on developing a community garden for several months and we’re finally ready to plant,” said Lesley. “We’re now looking to schedule a planting day where everyone can come and plant a seed.”

The community garden also has special sections for specific groups within the Tribe. “It has been agreed that the children will have control of one of the beds and the adults and elders will work the others,” said Lesley.

The community garden also has special sections for specific groups within the Tribe. “It has been agreed that the children will have control of one of the beds and the adults and elders will work the others,” said Lesley.

Lesley also said the recovery group will be involved with a medicinal garden.

The gardens consist of 5 cedar-raised beds, a circular medicinal garden and a perennial flower garden. The goal is to promote socialization, physical activity, nutrition and plant education as well as plant harvest.

“We hope to include indigenous plants and herbs that will help foster the education between the adults and the young on traditional crops, their benefits and how they were and continue to be used,” added Lesley.

For more information you may contact Lesley McKeen at 508-539-6917.
Chyla Hendricks Joins Museum

Please join Tribal Historic Preservation in welcoming new intern Chyla Hendricks to the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum. Chyla will gain valuable work experience with museum attendants Anita (Mother Bear) Peters and Courtney Powell as they share Wampanoag cultural history with the public.

Chyla is a recent high school graduate and in the fall she will study nursing at UMass Boston. Chyla’s internship is part of the Building Pathways for Tribal Youth under the NYCP grant. Through this program, the Indian Education Department is able to coordinate a variety of exciting internship opportunities with area businesses and organizations. The internships opportunities are open to tribal youth ages 14-19 years old and range from areas such as small business and historic preservation to natural resources and communications.

Name the New Housing Development

The Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Commissioners are leaving the big decision in the hands of the tribal members to name the new housing development. The Housing Commissioners have narrowed it down to the following three contenders:

- Mâseepee ahkee – Mashpee Land
- t8nuhpahsee munah – Turtle Island
- Mâseepee wôpanây weekash – Mashpee Wampanoag Homes

All you need to do to participate is submit your chosen name for the exciting new development to Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department, 483 Great Neck Road, Mashpee, MA 02649 or call Cassie Jackson at (508) 477-0208 Ext. 104. The winning name will be announced in next month’s Mittark.

NYCP Building Pathways Extends Educational Opportunities Through the Summer

Tribal youth were able to participate in two education-based trips over the past few weeks thanks to the continued support the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department receives through the NYCP Building Pathways grant. Grant trips over the past few weeks included a trip to Aquinnah on Martha’s Vineyard May 30 in conjunction with the Indian Education program at Mashpee High School and on June 16 to Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge off the coast of Chatham.

Tribal Youth were able to work directly with US Fish and Wildlife Service professionals on their work researching horseshoe crabs. Horseshoe crabs return to Cape beaches in late spring to early summer to spawn. At Aquinnah, youth were shown the ancestral lands and cliffs by Brian Weedon.

These trips were made possible with support from the NYCP Building Pathways for Tribal Youth Grant and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department Career Pathways program.

For more about future opportunities through the Career Pathways program, please contact John Hanlon at (508) 237-0041 or email John at John.hanlon@mwtribe-NSN.gov.

Natural Resource Access Vehicle Sticker

To obtain a sticker you must be a Tribal member, present a valid driver’s license and vehicle registration.

The fee is $10 cash only and will be placed on the vehicle by Enrollment. No new sticker will be issued without the remittance of the old sticker. Stickers are available on Wednesdays and Thursdays and please make an appointment. This sticker is for the purpose of vehicle owner identification only; you must carry your tribal ID as well.

Spouse and Non-Tribal member stickers are no longer valid stickers.

For questions call the Natural Resource Commission’s Chair Vernon Pocknett (508) 292-6713.
Emergency Management Department Shares Extreme Heat Preparedness Tips

With another hot summer ahead for our community, we wanted to share some important heat preparedness information. Extreme heat often results in the highest number of annual deaths among all weather-related hazards. In most of the United States, extreme heat is defined as a long period (2 to 3 days) of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees. In extreme heat, evaporation is slowed, and the body must work extra hard to maintain a normal temperature. This can lead to death by overworking the human body.

Remember that:

• Extreme heat can occur quickly and without warning.
• Older adults, children, and sick or overweight individuals are at greater risk.
• Humidity increases the feeling of heat as measured by a heat index.

~ IF YOU ARE UNDER AN EXTREME HEAT WARNING:
• Find air conditioning. Never leave people or pets in a closed car.
• Avoid strenuous activities.
• Watch for heat illness.
• Wear light clothing.
• Check on family members and neighbors.
• Drink plenty of fluids.
• Watch for heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.
• Keep your home cool by doing the following:
  • Cover windows with drapes or shades.
  • Weather-strip doors and windows.
  • Use window reflectors, such as...

~ WHAT TO DO NOW: Prepare
• Find places in your community where you can go to get cool.
• Keep your home cool by doing the following:
  • Cover windows with drapes or shades.
  • Weather-strip doors and windows.
  • Use window reflectors, such as...

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released its 2018-2022 Strategic Plan on March 15, 2018, and as part of the implementation of this Plan, FEMA was seeking the input and diverse perspectives of state, local, tribal, and territorial government, and non-governmental organization partners. FEMA sent a formal invitational letter to Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Management Director Nelson Andrews Jr to participate in the Partner Strategy Sessions in order to gather additional input toward the strategic plan, to help FEMA shape how to implement the new ambitious goals and objectives together.

Nelson Andrews Jr who also serves as the Co-Chairman of the United South and Eastern Tribes Homeland Security and Emergency Services Committee was one of 4 Tribal participants chosen from across Indian country to provide input and support during the partner strategy sessions. The partner strategy session meetings were held in Washington, DC in mid-May 2018. Mr. Andrews was able to meet with the FEMA administrator for a discussion and provide insight into some of the issues that affect the emergency preparedness of Federally Recognized Tribes in addition to the lack of funding parity involved between State and Tribal emergency management funding streams.

One of the overall outcomes of the meeting was to ensure that in order to reach FEMA’s goal of achieving the vision of a prepared and resilient nation, it is that there to be a shared responsibility and the input and support from all of the partners involved will help to ensure that successful disaster response and recovery is federally coordinated, tribal or state managed, and locally executed. Director, Andrews stated; “This meeting was a great example of Federal, State and Tribal collaboration and is a positive step toward the direction of progress for Tribal partners, to help ensure that the overall disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation efforts within Indian country are continuously addressed and remain within the forefront of the Federal Government’s scope.”

For additional information on the Mashpee Wampanoag Emergency Management Department or information on how you can be more involved with the preparedness of our Tribal community, please contact:
Emergency Management Director-Nelson.Andrewsjr@mwtribe-nsn.gov 508-477-5800 Ext 15 or:
Emergency Preparedness Specialist – Allyssa.Hathaway@mwtribe-nsn.gov 508-477-5800- Ext 13

Emergency Management Department Provides Input Into the FEMA Strategic Plan

Nashauonk Mittark

Tribe Celebrates Chief’s Birthday

Citizens of the tribe, family and friends all gathered at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center to celebrate the Chief’s 96th Birthday on June 16.

continued on page 11
Support grows for legislation for Mashpee tribe

Support for legislation to have the federal government take land in trust for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has grown in recent months as the tribe and others wait to see if Congress will schedule committee hearings to take up two identical bills, which aim to end an ongoing legal challenge to the tribe’s reservation.

Tribal nations, cities and towns from across the country have written to congressional leaders urging them to vote the bills — both called the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reaffirmation Act — out of committee. Lawmakers have received 26 letters of support from pan-tribal organizations, tribes and nonprofit groups, including 21 from individual tribes.

Some of the organizations backing the legislation include the United South and Eastern Tribes, representing more than 20 tribes, including the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah; the National Indian Gaming Association, which represents 184 federally recognized tribes; and the Apache Alliance, representing Apache Tribes in Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma.


The number of lawmakers co-sponsoring the House bill has also grown to 18. But support for the Senate bill appears to be lacking, with Markey and U.S Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., still the only sponsors, according to Congress’s website.

Emergency Management Extreme Heat Preparedness Tips (continued)

- WHAT TO DO DURING: Be Safe
  - Never leave a child, adult, or animal alone inside a vehicle on a warm day.
  - Find places with air conditioning. Libraries, shopping malls, and community centers can provide a cool place to take a break from the heat.
  - If you’re outside, find shade. Wear a hat wide enough to protect your face.
  - Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
  - Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated. If you or someone you care for is on a special diet, ask a doctor how best to accommodate it.
  - Do not use electric fans when the temperature outside is more than 95 degrees, as this could increase the risk of heat-related illness. Fans create air flow and a false sense of comfort, but do not reduce body temperature.
  - Avoid high-energy activities.
  - Check yourself, family members, and neighbors for signs of heat-related illness.

- RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND
  - Know the signs of heat-related illness and the ways to respond to it: HEAT CRAMPS
    - Signs: Muscle pains or spasms in the stomach, arms, or legs
  - Actions: Go to a cooler location. Remove excess clothing. Take sips of cool sports drinks with salt and sugar. Get medical help if cramps last more than an hour.

For additional information on heat and preparedness for this summer or information on how you can be more involved with the preparedness of our Tribal community, please contact:
Finding My Medicine: Cultural Practices for Tribal Youth

Finding My Medicine will start on July 19 and continue on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-4 through August 30 at 55 Acres (ceremonial grounds).

This project will offer cultural teachings and traditional practices to help our youth ages 14-19 to find and build upon their personal medicine. They will experience a series of cultural activities that are designed to bring about self-awareness, discovering their inner talents and strengths. Some of these activities include; receive their Indian name (if they don’t have one), develop their tribal sound, create personal symbol, and learn how to connect with their personal animal totems. They will also learn traditional Wampanoag ceremonial practices that they can use throughout their lives.

This project takes place mainly on the tribal ceremonial grounds during the summer months. Together with training and supervision they will build a better shelter around the ceremonial circle to offer the tribe in September. This is a perfect time to construct the new arbor because the youth are interested and there are key elders, traditionalists, and volunteers available to help complete the project.

Participants who see the project through from beginning to end can take advantage of the internship stipends through the Education Department. Sponsored by Tribal Historic Preservation and the Education Department.

Contact Ed. Dept. John Hanlon to sign up. 508-477-0208

The following articles will relate to Peacemaking and the Justice system. I have edited some of the material to make it cohesive and easy to read. Various tribes have included Peacemaking in their justice systems and provide a wealth of knowledge about the Peacemaking process. We will examine the various tribes that incorporate the Peacemaking process into their tribal justice systems. Peacemaking is a traditional method of Indigenous justice. Our next articles are about Judge Flies-Away who is an enrolled member of the Hualapai Nation, located on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, in Arizona. In this particular segment, Judge Flies-Away shares his view on Healing to Wellness Courts.

Judge Flies-Away reports that when a person commits a criminal act, the people say that he acts like he has no relatives. The purpose of law is to bring the person back into the fold, to heal him. People do the worst things when they have no ties to people. Tribal court systems are a tool to make people connected again. Anglo court processes are cold and icy. While he has issued sentences prescribed by the tribe’s criminal code, he thinks about healing the hurt or sickness that might be causing the criminal behavior in the first place. Judge Flies-Away provides assistance to several tribes that are planning, implementing or evaluating Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts. He was a member of the Tribal Advisory Committee, which, with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute and the U.S. Department of Justice, developed the publication, “Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts: The Key Components.” The goal of these courts, it reads, is to “provide an opportunity for each Native community to address the devastation of alcohol or other drug abuse by establishing more structure and higher levels of accountability for these cases and offenders through a system of comprehensive supervision, drug testing, treatment services, immediate sanctions and incentives, team-based case management and community support.”

Judge Flies-Away reports that he is no stranger to the spoils of alcoholism, having been raised in an alcoholic community and family. As judge for his people, he has heard and handled many alcohol-related cases that resulted in great personal and public injury, and seen defendants return to court numerous times on the same alcohol-related charges. It became clear to him that a 30-day sentence and a $100 fine does not effectively deter abusive drinking, especially for those who are not averse to spending time in jail, and, more important, that detention does not address the underlying problems and social difficulties that the defendants face in their daily lives.

By Laura Mirsky

Restorative Justice Practices of Native American, First Nation and Other Indigenous People of North America: Part One

Nashauonk Mittark
Prayer Fires: From the Chief’s Circle

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. The fire itself should be small and tended by one person. Only the Fire Keepers are responsible for adding firewood unless they ask you to assist. You may bring fire wood as an offering to the family. 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
By the Chief’s Circle