Chairman’s Column

Wunee keesuq Tribal family,

It’s hard to believe that we’re approaching the Thanksgiving holiday season and we’re still fighting to retain 1/10th of 1% of our ancestral homeland. Our ancestors gave the Pilgrims the land to establish Plymouth Colony. Yet here we are. The Tribe that started it all is once again forced to defend our heritage— a legacy that nobody disputes— against legal definitions. It’s a scary proposition that will bring Indian Country back to the Termination Era of the 1960s.

What we’re facing is injustice, plain and simple. It’s injustice that feeds in the dark shadows of ignorance and we’re not going to stand by idly while this happens. So what are we going to do? We’re going to expose it to the light of our culture, heritage and the unity of our brothers and sisters across this nation.

This isn’t just an attack on our Tribe. It’s an attack on all Native Americans. I put the call out to the tribes across the country at last months meeting of the National Congress of American Indians. I asked them to stand with Mashpee and they responded unanimously with a vote at the general assembly to unanimously support our efforts.

Our sovereign right to govern ourselves as a Tribal Nation ensures that we are able to keep with our ancient customs and traditions. Our

Chairman Cromwell was in Denver on Tuesday, October 23 raising awareness about the effect or a recent decision by the U.S. Department of the Interior that threatens the tribe’s reservation. A move that will mark the return to the Termination Era this country launched against tribe from the 1940s through the 1960s.

“The termination era has been reintroduced. It’s a very horrifying situation that’s happening with my Tribe,” said Cromwell.

But, despite that threat and its potential effect on the Tribe’s lands, Cromwell said our plans to expand education, healthcare, public safety and economic development remain in place.

Cromwell spoke on Tuesday, October 23 at the 75th Annual meeting of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in Denver. He spoke before the General Assembly of the organization on the topic, Protecting our Land; Land into Trust.

This speaking engagement comes just weeks before the Tribe goes to Washington, D.C. to host a second “Mashpee Wampanoag Land Sovereignty Walk and Rally,” on November 14. The first walk and rally was on October 6 in Mashpee.

“It’s very important to talk about the September 7 decision,” Cromwell said. “How a negative decision will hurt my Tribe’s ability to maintain our homelands.”

With a packed auditorium of Native leaders in attendance at NCAI Cromwell made sure the issue of securing the Tribe’s reservation lands was front and center. Cromwell urged tribal nations to “stand with Mashpee” and support the legislation put forward by William Keating, which would reaf

Tribe Plans Walk and Rally in DC for Nov 14

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will be staging a walk in Washington DC to protest a recent federal government decision that could lead to the loss of its sovereign reservation. The Mashpee Wampanoag Land Sovereignty Walk and Rally will be held on Wednesday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m. and will go from the National museum of the

Annual Fall Social on November 24

On Saturday, November 24 the sounds of an intertribal social – complete with drumming, singing, round dancing and the hum of good conversation – mixed with the smell of home cooked dishes will fill the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center as the Tribe will be hosting its annual fall social. The potluck social will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium and is open to all tribal citizens, family, friends and neighboring tribes.

Councilwoman Winnie Johnson-Graham who organized the social this year truly sees this as a community event. “There’s something special about our fall
Youth Council Elect New Officers

On Sunday, October 14 the Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Council elected a new slate of officers to lead the council over the upcoming year. At the annual elections, which were held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center, tribal youth elected Abigail Peters, Chairperson; Iyano Fermino - Vice Chairperson; Taylor Rose, Co-Secretary; Troy Stewart, Co-Secretary; Kobi Howerton, Treasurer; Amiyah Peters, Female Representative; Ceasar Hendricks, Male Representative; Jenaya Perry, Youth Council Member; and DJ Peters, Youth Council Member.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers and to all of our youth that participated in the process and to Ann Marie Askew and Robert Dias Tribal Council Liaisons.

Donations to the Old Indian Meeting House

Recently the Old Indian Meeting House committee received an anonymous donation in memory of the Frye family. Thank you to all that made that donation possible.

It’s through donations, like the one that was received in memory of the Frye family, that the Old Indian Meeting House Committee are able to maintain the building and grounds and coordinate the events that keep us all connected.

As we approach year-end, please consider making a donation…your support is greatly appreciated.

Native American Thanks Giving on November 17

Tribal Citizens along with family and friends from the community are invited to attend the 9th Annual Native American Thanks Giving on Saturday, November 17. The annual event, which is coordinated by the Old Indian Meeting House Committee, will open at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Indian Meeting House with an opening ceremony and prayer.

The annual event is organized to bring the community together and to provide everyone a much-needed pause from their daily routine to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for.

New Events

- November 3 - 5:00 p.m. Granny Squannit Walk, MWTCGC
- November 11 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. General Body Meeting, MWTCGC
- November 14 - 10:00 a.m. Mashpee Land Sovereignty Walk & Rally in DC, National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC
- November 17 - 11:00 a.m. Native American Thanks Giving, Old Indian Meeting House
- November 24 - 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Annual Fall Social, 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
- 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

Notices for Elders

Meeting first Saturday of the month at the Community/Gov’t Center at 11.

All Elders in Need of assistance or information please contact Joanne Frye, Director of Elders Department, at (508) 477-0208 Ext.140.
Tribe Sues Conservation Commission to Preserve Wetlands

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is suing the town’s Conservation Commission, claiming the commission did not consider tribal aquaculture resources when issuing an order to the owners of Gooseberry Island identifying the types of wetlands in the area, according to court documents.

The lawsuit, filed Oct. 5, alleges that an order of area delineation issued by the commission to Gooseberry Island Trust was based on “fundamentally flawed and inaccurate information,” omitting two specific resource areas: coastal dune and coastal beach, or tidal flats. Along with the tribe, the suit names 17 tribe members as plaintiffs.

The tribe has used those resources, excluded in the commission’s order, for its shellfish grant, and has “fished, harvested and carried out shellfishing aquaculture activities” in those areas since time immemorial, the suit says. The tribe first obtained that shellfish grant license in 1977.

State regulations require that anyone seeking to build on or around wetland areas must submit a plan listing and delineating the types of wetlands present on a piece of land, or receive a “negative determination of applicability or a final order of conditions” from the state or the local conservation commission, according to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection’s website.

The tribe worries that the building of a proposed one-lane bridge to the island in Popponesset Bay after months of dispute between the island’s owners, conservationists and the tribe. The trust had previously asked the town Zoning Board of Appeals for permission to build a single-family home there but in October 2013, the board voted against the request, citing concerns over access to the home in case of fire or other emergency, prompting the request to build the bridge and the involvement of the Conservation Commission.

The tribe has been working with the town to propagate shellfish to combat the longstanding water quality problem facing the town’s estuaries and lakes, and any development on Gooseberry Island could undermine that effort, Green said.

Because the tribe’s shellfish hatchery is located next to Gooseberry Island, “it is even more important” that the town and the tribe continue to protect the health of its bays, said Jessie “Little Doe” Baird, vice chairwoman of the tribal council and one of the plaintiffs in the suit.

“Our bays and natural resources are so important to the tribe that we will continue to protect this area, and all areas within our region whenever we can,” she said.

Andrew McManus, conservation agent with the commission, said he doesn’t agree with the tribe’s claim the town erred in delineating the area’s wetland resources, but acknowledges their right to protect those resources.

“They may be under the impression… that those particular resource areas aren’t going to be considered when it comes time to permitting for development,” he said. “But just because the applicant didn’t ask for them doesn’t mean they don’t exist.”

By Tanner Stening, Cape Cod Times

Chairman’s Column (continued)

rights as a sovereign nation are vital to our criminal jurisdiction – our Tribe’s police force will dissolve and our Tribal Court will no longer exercise jurisdiction over criminal cases. Most importantly, our youth will be immediately impacted. The children that are flourishing in our language immersion school and programs on Tribal land will no longer have a school to attend. Think about that, our school will be required to close its doors.

This is what we’re fighting for. This is what drives me day and night to continue our fight to preserve our land in trust. Without sovereign land, all of the things I’ve mentioned will be threatened.

I refuse to allow this administration to bring us back to the Termination Era. We have only one option and it’s to protect our sovereignty.

Stand with Mashpee and thousands of tribal members, friends and neighbors across Turtle Island as we call on Congress to pass the Mashpee Wampanoag Reservation Reaffirmation Act. This is the only way our culture, traditions and future generations will be protected.

Kutâputunumuw; Chairman Cedric Cromwell Qaqa’emasq (Running Bear)

Walk in Flu Shots Available on Wednesdays

The Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit are offering walk in flu shots every Wednesday during the month of November. Simply stop by the Health Service Unit any Wednesday during the month between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to receive your flu shot.
The Tribal Election will be held for six (6) seats of Tribal Council Member.

Election Day: Sunday, February 10, 2019

Voting Hours:
- Enrolled, Registered-to-Vote Elders and Disabled Persons: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Enrolled, Registered-to-Vote Elders, Disabled Persons and other Tribal Members: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location:
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community & Government Center
483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, MA 02649

Six (6) Tribal Council Seats: Tribal Council Member

Election Notice to Enrolled Tribal Members
The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Election Committee extends notice to all Enrolled Tribal Members who will turn 18 years of Age on or before Sunday, February 10, 2019, that they are required to complete a Voter Registration Form in order to vote at the general election on Sunday, February 10, 2019 (the “Election Day”).

The Voter Registration form can be obtained at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community & Government Center, located at 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee, MA 02649 during regular business hours. All enrolled and eligible Tribal members are allowed to register on or before the Election Day.

The results of the Election will be Posted at: 1) the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community & Government Center, 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee, MA 02649; and 2) on the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe official website on Monday February 11, 2019.

Warren, Markey Announce Release of Additional Fuel Assistance to Tribe for LIHEAP

United States Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) today announced the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) release of an additional $136,483,517 of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding to Massachusetts. This funding, which includes $204,725 for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, follows a letter sent by Senators Warren, Markey, and 38 of their Senate colleagues earlier this month calling on HHS to release LIHEAP funds as quickly as possible.

“Every family in our Commonwealth should be able to heat their homes and stay safe during the cold winter months,” said Senators Warren and Markey in a joint statement. “While this additional LIHEAP funding will make a real difference for Massachusetts families who rely on federal aid to help cover their energy costs, more funding is needed for Massachusetts and other states experiencing extremely cold weather. LIHEAP is a key part of ensuring the safety and well-being of Massachusetts residents, and we are committed to supporting and strengthening this important program.”

LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing critical assistance during the cold winter and hot summer months. More information about LIHEAP is available on the HHS website here. Recently, the Senators requested that the Appropriations Committee support the LIHEAP Emergency Contingency Fund in the next upcoming funding package, in order to allay higher home heating costs incurred after the Merrimack Valley natural gas disaster.

Images from October 6 Land Sovereignty Walk & Rally

Warren, Markey Announce Release of Additional Fuel Assistance to Tribe for LIHEAP
Mashpee Planning Board Explores Construction of Attaquin Hotel and other Community Preservation Act Projects

A rebuilt Attaquin Hotel, a restored parsonage, and a basketball court at Attaquin Park are among some of the projects the Mashpee Planning Board discussed as future possibilities for Community Preservation Act funds—some of which may become reality sooner rather than later.

The board is responding to a request from Mashpee Community Preservation Committee chairman Andrew R. Gottlieb to submit possible projects to be considered for funding as the town considers putting an end to the program that has been a boon for parks, open space, affordable housing and recreational projects throughout the town and the state.

The Community Preservation Act, or CPA, is a 3 percent surcharge tax that is collected in an account overseen by the community preservation committee and goes to projects that include recreation, open space, historic preservation, and affordable housing. Town Meeting ultimately decides which projects will get funding. Over the years, the town has used revenue from the account to fund pickleball courts on Ashumet Road, a number of park upgrades, land for open space and affordable housing projects.

The town can decide whether to end the program in 2020.

Planning board chairman Mary E. Waygan said that the board has yet to submit its report to the community preservation committee, but will do so in November and likely will advocate that the program continue beyond 2020.

On Wednesday last week, board members spoke about projects that they would like to see go forward using CPA funds.

Board member Dennis H. Balzarini said that he would like to see something happen at the old Attaquin Hotel site, even rebuilding the former hotel. Mr. Balzarini hoped that the hotel could sponsor lectures, perhaps tribal members could host cooking demonstrations, and that the hotel could become a center in the village. “There’s a lot we could do with that property,” the planning board member said.

The hotel burned down in the 1950s, but town planner Evan R. Lehrer said that the hotel is one of the town’s most architecturally significant buildings. Several presidents came to stay at the hotel while fishing in Mashpee, and it was also the town’s first post office. Mr. Lehrer noted that the hotel represents Mashpee when it first came into the modern economy, and that the site now does not do justice to its historical significance.

The board also voiced support of a new basketball court at Attaquin Park. Over the summer, the town moved the hoop out of the former location and away from traffic. The hoop was in the parking lot for the beach, but the current location is accompanied by dirt and grass rather than a hardtop court.

Board member David Weeden advocated for funding for a number of historic homes in Mashpee currently under threat.

The parsonage, the yellow dilapidated house on Route 130 across from the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum, was one mentioned. The parsonage was built in 1849 and is one of the oldest structures in Mashpee. Over the years, Mashpee Baptist ministers lived in the house, as well as Wampanoag tribe members with deep roots in the community, including the Attaquins.

Currently the structure is mostly boarded up, and is unsafe to walk inside. Animals are said to inhabit the attic.

If a proponent did come forward with an application to the CPC, state laws would mandate that the building remains open to the public for a period of the time. The parsonage is currently within the sovereign territory of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

Mr. Weeden also advocated for the restoration of a home formerly owned by Walter Mingo on Great Neck Road South, also one of the oldest homes in Mashpee. Walter Mingo was a selectman in town for several years, and a long line of prominent tribal members had lived in the house over the years as well. The house has been put on the market and could be purchased by someone outside of the tribe, Mr. Weeden said.

A third house that dates back to the 1800s is also under threat, Mr. Weeden said. The house is within the Main Street Historic District on Route 130 and was formerly owned by the Potter family. He said that he hopes to use CPA money to restore it and put it under protection of the National Register of Historic Places, and that the house could be rented as affordable housing.

Aside from historic properties, the board also noted that a number of lands could be purchased for open space and be added to the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge.

For affordable housing, the board did not list any specific projects, but Ms. Waygan noted that the town is far behind its goal of 10 percent affordable housing. The board did agree that funding for affordable housing should continue and should be fully funded annually.

The community preservation committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, November 8.

By SAM HOUGHTON, Enterprise
Inside The Archives: A Salute To Our Veterans

The Revolution had come and the 13 colonies were fighting for their independence from Great Britain. Wampanoag Isaac Wickham left his wetu in the then-“incorporated district” of Marshpee (this original spelling containing the letter “r,” used until it was changed by the state in 1870) to fight for the Americans. At the time the “district” status gave the Wampanoag of Marshpee a degree of autonomy and security under the laws of Massachusetts and a chance to manage their own internal affairs. Mr. Wickham left, putting his life on the line for his new nation.

He served in the War for Independence from 1780 to 1783. Wickham was in one of the light infantry companies under Major General Marquis de Lafayette.

He was with Maj. Gen. Lafayette in 1781 when forces under General George Washington, and a French army allied with him, had begun to move from New York to Yorktown, Virginia, to attack the British troops under General Lord Cornwallis.

Three weeks later, Gen. Washington reached Maj. Gen. Lafayette’s headquarters in Williamsburg, Virginia, where Mr. Wickham was stationed. At the end of September, the combined forces marched on Yorktown with more than 17,000 American and French soldiers.

Mr. Wickham took part in the siege of Yorktown and the surrender of Gen. Cornwallis on October 19, 1781, considered to be the final battle of the war that led to independence.

Mr. Wickham was one of many Wampanoags who played a role in American independence during the Revolutionary War. The Mashpee Historical Commission, with the invaluable assistance of Wampanoag Tribal Genealogist Rita Lopez, has been researching that role in advance of a planned war memorial, recognizing all Mashpee veterans of all our nation’s wars.

Research to date (and more is needed) shows 57 men from Mashpee, almost all Wampanoags, went off to fight for that independence, with 13 Wampanoags never returning, giving the ultimate sacrifice for their new nation.

Sadly, after the war was over and independence from Great Britain achieved, Mr. Wickham returned to Marshpee only to see the new American government not renew the “district” status and the Marshpee Wampanoags lose their self-governing rights.

They were denied the rights of citizens, even to the extent that Wampanoag children could now be taken from their families and indentured out into the bonds of indentured servitude. So much for gratitude and honor for their sacrifice.

Only two of the Wampanoag Indians who served in the Revolutionary War received federal pensions. The reason was that most Wampanoags who served did not often know about the pension process nor about the necessary paperwork, often requiring permanent addresses. Because Wampanoags often moved from summer and winter locations, they did not have permanent addresses. They also had the difficulty of gathering supporting testimony of whites decades after the war had ended.

For these and other factors, even though the Wampanoag soldiers served and fought for our nation’s independence, they did not receive the pension rewards that most white soldiers received.

One of the two who did receive a pension was Isaac Wickham. When he applied for a pension in 1818, Mr. Wickham was suffering from “chronic lameness” and was eking out a humble subsistence in an “old house 10 by 14 feet, one story in height.” He purchased a cow with his first pension payment. In later years, Mr. Wickham testified on behalf of other pension applicants and their widows. In time, he became the oldest living Mashpee veteran.

On November 11, Mashpee and the rest of the nation will celebrate Veterans Day. Inside the Archives building across from town hall, members of the historical commission and a newly formed Community Park Monument Committee will continue their research to identify Mashpee veterans of all our nation’s wars. Our goal is to place the individual names of those veterans on a new monument.

We will also continue the design established in the Veterans’ Garden of placing individual honor markers for all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and who never returned to their hometown of Mashpee.

Added to the nine current individual monuments that range from World War II to Iraq and Afghanistan will be the 13 Wampanoags who gave their lives in winning America’s War of Independence. Church Asher, Joseph Asher, Deacon Moses Job, Elisha Keeter, James Keeter, Joseph Keeter, Samuel Moses, Daniel Pocknet, Hosea Pocknet, Joshua Pocknet, Joshua Pocknet (two different Pocknets with the same name), Job Rimmon and Gideon Tumpum.

By RICHARD DESORGHER, Mashpee Enterprise
Tribe Receive Support From National Indian Congress

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell put the call out to the tribes across the country on Tuesday, October 23, in an effort to protect the tribe’s land and received unanimous support from a national tribal body.

A motion proposed by Mr. Cromwell to the general assembly of the National Congress of American Indians on Tuesday received a unanimous positive vote. Mr. Cromwell asked for support on pending federal legislation that would preserve and protect the historic tribe’s reservation.

“Each and every one of you, as tribal leaders, truly understands the challenges we are going through today,” Mr. Cromwell told the 75th annual gathering of tribal leaders, who represent the 573 federally recognized tribal nations across the country. “United we stand, and united we fall.”

“Indian country, I love you and I hope you understand our situation,” the Mashpee chairman said. “I’m calling on each and every one of you, please, to bring the message to your communities that we have a very serious threat attack happening here to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.”

The US Department of the Interior ruled in September that the tribe was not “under federal jurisdiction” in 1934 and therefore that such jurisdiction was not a basis for maintaining the tribe’s 321-acre reservation.

Following the decision, tribal attorneys filed a complaint in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia, challenging the Interior Department’s failure to take action to preserve and protect the tribe’s reservation as “arbitrary, capricious, and contrary” to the department’s own administrative decisions.

In 2015, the department declared the tribe’s land in Mashpee and Taunton to be the tribe’s initial reservation. That decision was challenged in separate litigation filed in Massachusetts by a group of landowners in East Taunton.

In his remarks, Mr. Cromwell noted the irony that the tribe’s ancestors gave the Pilgrims the land to establish Plymouth Colony and is now in the position of having to defend its right to hold onto just a small percentage of the tribe’s ancestral homeland.

Mr. Cromwell noted that because all federally-recognized tribes should be treated equally, “it’s a natural conclusion that federally recognized tribes should have trust lands.”

“I’m asking that you stand with Mashpee,” Mr. Cromwell said.

Standing with Mashpee, Mr. Cromwell said, translated into lining up support behind the Mashpee Wampanoag Reservation Reaffirmation Act (HR 5244), which was filed in the US House of Representatives in March of this year. Passage of the act would permanently protect the tribe’s reservation and put an end to legal challenges.

Cromwell urged the assembled gathering to contact their congressional representatives to urge the bill be passed and also invited tribal leaders to join a planned Mashpee Wampanoag Walk and Rally in the nation’s capital slated for November 14 outside the US Capitol building.

Before leaving the podium, Cromwell also asked NCAI President Jefferson Keel for the group’s formal support for the tribe’s efforts to retain its reservation land through litigation. The request was voted on and passed.

By SAM HOUGHTON, Mashpee Enterprise

Health Connector’s Open Enrollment Starts November 1

The Health Connector’s OPEN ENROLLMENT starts November 1st –December 23rd 2018. This is the time when you can choose to renew or change health insurance plans for 2019. In general, if you keep paying your monthly premiums, you can renew for 2019 into:

- Your current plan, if it is available in 2019, or
- A similar plan, if your current plan is not available for 2019.

If you want to enroll in a different plan, you can shop and change plans during OPEN ENROLLMENT and compare health plans online at MAHealthConnector.org/compare plans or visit Tribal Health Office at 508 477 0208 x166.

Ricky Hendricks Retires

Myron “Ricky” Hendricks enjoyed his last day in the Tribe’s Department of Public Works on September 21, which just happened to be his birthday. Ricky was the Maintenance Specialist in the department. He is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Robyn, daughter Meagan and grandson Shayne. He’s also planning on traveling more in his spare time. Thank you Ricky for you dedicated service to your tribe.
The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and STEEP Superfund Research Program presented a screening of the documentary film The Devil We Know on October 16. The screening was co-hosted by Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition, Association for Preservation of Cape Cod, and Barnstable Clean Water Coalition.

The Devil We Know, by award-winning documentary filmmaker Stephanie Soechtig and featured at this year’s prestigious Sundance Film Festival, chronicles one of the biggest environmental scandals of our time. The film tells the story of a group of citizens in West Virginia as they take on a powerful corporation following the discovery that it had knowingly dumped a class of toxic chemical called PFASs into the drinking water supply.

These same chemicals have also been found on Cape Cod. STEEP, a five-year research project launched last year, is focused on understanding PFASs and the environmental and human health impacts of these drinking water contaminants, including here on Cape Cod. Following the film, there was a panel discussion with STEEP researchers that gave the local community the opportunity to share their questions and concerns.

STEEP (Sources, Transport, Exposure and Effects of PFASs) is a partnership of the University of Rhode Island; Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Department of Environmental Health; and Silent Spring Institute. STEEP is funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Superfund Research Program. For more information, visit: web.uri.edu/steep

Granny Squannit Walk Rescheduled
The annual Granny Squannit Walk has been rescheduled for Saturday, November 3. The event will start at 5:00 p.m. at the Powwow Grounds adjacent to the Tribe’s Community and Government Center with a spooky walk to 55 Acres at dusk to hear stories from Granny Squannit. There will also be food and refreshments for all with pizza, hotdogs, sandwiches, hot chocolate and cookies on the menu for the kids.

Now Recruiting for AmeriCorps Program
The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe AmeriCorps Program is currently seeking 10 motivated Native American individuals 18-24 to serve the Mashpee Wampanoag Community in full time (1,700 hours) service opportunities.

$6,095 education award. Free training and professional development. Travel to FEMA disasters.

Contact Nelson Andrews Jr at (508) 477-5800 Ext. 13 or 15 or at nelson.andrews:jr@mwtribe-nsn.gov

Home Rehabilitation Lottery is Now Open – Applications Due January 31, 2019
The Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department is pleased to announce it will once again run the “Home Rehabilitation” Lottery. The lottery awards three homeowners that are also members of a federally recognized tribe that live within the Tribe’s service area up to $15,000 to complete needed home repairs. Applications for the “Home Rehabilitation” Lottery are being accepted now through Thursday, January 31, 2019.

A copy of the application has been included with this edition of the Mittark or it can be completed online at www.mashpeewampanoagtribe-nsn.gov/housing or by contacting the housing department at (508) 477-0208 ext. 104.

A complete list of application requirements, including HUD income guidelines can be found with the application.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Housing Department is committed to providing safe affordable housing to eligible tribal members, and other Native Americans who reside in the Tribe’s service area. It is the Housing Department’s mission to provide housing assistance and opportunities specific to the needs of the Native Americans living with The Wampanoag Community.
Nuclear Energy Tribal Working Group Visit Mashpee

12 different tribal nations from the Nuclear Energy Tribal Working Group (NETWG), as well as reps from the Department of Energy, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the National Conference of State Legislatures spent two days touring Mashpee and the surrounding service area last month. The group toured the Plymouth Nuclear Power Plant and parts of the Tribe’s ancestral homelands in Mashpee during the two-day meeting.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is a member of NETWG. Nelson Andrews Jr., emergency management department director, took the lead on facilitating the meeting. “The Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station is within our service area and something we want to keep a very close eye on,” said Andrews. “It’s particularly important that we understand the short- and long-term impacts of the planned decommissioning of the power plant and how this will impact our homelands.”

NETWG is a chartered working group focused on engaging tribal governments interested in the broad spectrum of Department Energy nuclear energy activities. Nelson sees this as a vital group that can represent tribal needs at the highest level.

The mission of NETWG is to engage federally-recognized tribal governments and their designated representatives in U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) activities. NETWG will serve as a conduit to foster communication, education of all generations, and promote active involvement of tribal governments. NETWG is dedicated to assisting in developing and maintaining the government-to-government relationship between DOE and Indian Tribes, consistent with DOE’s American Indian Policy.

Health Connector

The Health Connector’s OPEN ENROLLMENT starts November 1st –December 23rd 2018. This is the time when you can choose to renew or change health insurance plans for 2019. In general, if you keep paying your monthly premiums, you can renew for 2019 into:

• Your current plan, if it is available in 2019, or

• A similar plan, if your current plan is not available for 2019.

If you want to enroll in a different plan, you can shop and change plans during OPEN ENROLLMENT and compare health plans online at MAHealthconnector.org/compare plans or visit Tribal Health Office at 508 477 0208 x166

Raising Awareness

(continued)

firm their land. “Now is the chance for us to stand united. I’m calling on all of Indian Country to stand with us on November 14 in DC.”

“We’re building awareness,” Cromwell said. “The answer is sovereignty. There is federal law for tribes, and Congress is responsible for enforcing those laws. So we’re simply asking them to do their jobs.”

Tribe Plans Walk in DC

(continued)

American Indian to the U.S. Capitol in Washington DC.

This walk is on the heels of a walk held last month that went through part of the Tribe’s ancestral homeland in Mashpee.

If you go

WHAT: Mashpee Wampanoag Land Sovereignty Walk and Rally

WHEN: 10 a.m. Nov. 14

WHERE: National Museum of the American Indian to the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

STAY CONNECTED: facebook.com/mwtribe
“Home Rehabilitation” Lottery is Open

3 SLOTS! UP TO $15,000.00 for each project

DROP OFF YOUR COMPLETED FORM AT THE MW HOUSING DEPARTMENT OR PLACE YOUR COMPLETED FORM IN THE HOUSING BOX LOCATED IN THE FOYER OF THE COMMUNITY & GOVERNMENT CENTER

Lottery Form Due by Thursday, January 31, 2019, 4:30 PM

- 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% of the median income for the County.
- Financial assistance cannot be provided if a family is paying over 50% of the gross income for mortgage. (subject to change)
- 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.
- If you have received a different service within the last 24 (twenty-four) months, you are not eligible for additional services.
- The subject property must be owned and occupied by the applicant.
- The subject property must have a clear title, i.e. no liens or encumbrances.
- The applicant must be current with the mortgage, homeowners insurance, and property taxes.
- Once a preliminary approval is given, the Housing Department will schedule an inspection of all rehabilitation needs.
- The maximum Rehabilitation funds available are up to $15,000 per household; and can only be given one time per home.
- Housing built before 1978 may contain lead-based paint. Lead from paint, paint chips, and dust can pose health hazards if not managed properly. Lead exposure is especially harmful to young children and pregnant women. Before any work is performed the structure must be tested by a licensed lead inspector. All work must be conducted by an EPA-or State- certified renovation firm and have at least one certified renovator to perform and/ or oversee the work.
- All bids will be solicited by the Housing Department and the Director will make the final selection of the contractor. A firm-fixed contract is awarded to the responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is the lowest in price (conforming to all the material terms and conditions for the invitation to bid). Preference is given in the award of contracts to the qualified Indian organizations and Indian-owned economic enterprise. A bid which is not more than 10% higher than the lowest bid is given preference.
- A contract will be signed between the homeowner, Director or Assistant Director of the Housing department and the contractor.
- The contractor will only be paid after all work is completed and approved by all appropriate authorities.
- A waiting list will be created for the current lottery, in the event someone chosen does not qualify or drops out.

Our Mission is to Encourage Self-determination and Economic Independence for All Tribal Members
Income Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Persons in Household</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnstable</td>
<td>48,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>39,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norfolk</td>
<td>56,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth</td>
<td>56,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suffolk</td>
<td>56,800</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Adjusted annually by HUD; these figures may adjust DURING this application process.

PLEASE PRINT -- Must be filled out completely to be considered for lottery

Name: ____________________________________________

Contact Number: ______________________________________

Email: ____________________________________________

Residence: _______________________________________

Mailing Address: ______________________________________

Tribal ID: __________________________________________

Date of Birth: ______________________________________

Approximate Annual Income: ___________________________

Number of Household Members: _________________________

Rehabilitation funds will be used for homes that have safety, health and/or code violations.

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