Chairman’s Column

It’s hard to believe that we’re ushering in a new year and we’re still petitioning the U.S. Government to recognize our full rights as a tribal nation. Last month the General Society of Mayflower Descendants recognized the hypocrisy of the situation and decided to formally put its support behind our Tribe. We’re also up to 23 co-sponsors of our bi-partisan Mashpee Wampanoag Reservation Reaffirmation Act, a bill that will forever protect our homeland, traditions and culture. We’re not alone in our fight and we will succeed.

This support, while welcoming, doesn’t ease the burden this constant assault on our sovereignty has placed on our operations. The financial impact of this long-drawn-out fight has placed on our finances is real and has required us to streamline our staffing and expense lines. These are not decisions that we make lightly at the Tribal Council table. The vast majority of our staff are tribal members and any reductions in hours or positions have very real impacts on our community. We understand this all too well and are committed to minimizing these impacts to our family members and to the tribal members that they serve.

We’ve also been working diligently over the past year to stabilize many of our core departments with grant funding and I’m proud to say we’ve accomplished this for many of our Gooseberry Island Trust and SN Trust requested several variances in order to develop a single-family home on the 3.9-acre island, a development that the Tribe has stood firmly in opposition of. The proposed home would sit on fragile wetlands and next to the Tribe’s First Light Oyster farm.

The owners of Gooseberry Island in Popponesset Bay struck out again in December with the Zoning Board of Appeals in their bid to build a home on the island with a bridge to the mainland.

Gooseberry Island Trust and SN Trust requested several variances in order to develop a single-family home on the 3.9-acre island, as well as a bridge that would extend from the end of Punkhorn Point Road. The Mashpee’s assessors’ website lists Matthew Haney as the property’s owner.

Continued on page 4

HR5244 Formally Brought to House Floor

Support for the “Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act” HR5244 has continued to grow. On Wednesday, December 19 the bill was formally brought to the House Floor. Representative Raul Grijalva of Arizona and Representative Jim McGovern of Massachusetts, both ardent supporters and co-sponsors of the legislation read into the record the circumstance the Mashpee Wampanoag is facing. Leadership within the Tribe are confident passage will come during the 116th Congress in 2019 as the bill now has 23 co-sponsors of the bi-partisan legislation.

Language School Design Sessions Scheduled for January 8, 15, 22 and 29

Mukayuhsak Weekuw (The Children’s House) is growing! Help us design a community plan for everything Grade 2-4 students need to know about their culture & homelands.

Join WLRP for a meal, survey, and discussion series Tuesdays in January: January 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 4:30-6pm in the K-1 classroom at Mukayuhsak Weekuw (483 Great Neck Rd. S).

For more information please contact Jennifer Weston at jweston@wlrp.org.

Continued on page 5
The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will accept sealed bids from qualified General Contractors for completion of a Site Feasibility Study and Architectural blueprint, for its new DHHS/CCDF-funded childcare center at Meetinghouse Road, Mashpee, Massachusetts 02649.

Project Description: The project scope consists of the feasibility study, blueprint, site-specific map, and estimated construction timeline, and cost for completion of construction of a childcare center on tribal lands. Sealed Bids will be received until January 11, 2019, 3:00 pm. Bid packages may be obtained by requesting them from Roxanne.brown@mwtribe-nsn.gov or Eileen.miranda@mwtribe-nsn.gov or by contacting Kendall Scott, Administrative Assistant Childcare Development Office, at (508) 477-0208 Ext. 164.

Regalia Making Workshops for Wareham Students

The Indian Education Department is bringing a six-week regalia making workshop to students attending Wareham Public Schools and their families. The workshop is open to all Native American students in K-12 Wareham Public Schools.

The six-week program will be held Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Classes start on Wednesday, January 9 and will continue to February 13 and will be held at The Emmanuel Church of the Nazarene located at 6 Rogers Ave in Wareham. The regalia-making workshop is limited to 15 students and an adult must accompany all students. To register, please call the Indian Education Program Coordinator Kitty Hendricks-Miller at (508) 477-0208 ext. 143 or at Gertrude.hendricks@mwtribe-nsn.gov.

Powwow Committee Seeking Members

The Powwow Committee is currently looking for dedicated tribal members to join the committee. The Powwow Committee is responsible for organizing the Tribe’s annual homecoming, our largest event held each year. For more information about the committee, please contact Committee Chairman Brian Weeden at (774) 413-0520. Letters of interest can be sent to Francie Dottin, executive administrative assistant to the chairman, at francie.dottin@mwtribe-nsn.gov.
Tribe to Host Mashpee Varsity Basketball Games

For the second year in a row the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will host a Mashpee High School Varsity Boys and Varsity Girls Basketball Game. The two games will be played on Friday, January 11 at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center.

The girls varsity game will be played first with tip off at 5:00 PM and the boys game will immediately follow at 6:30 PM. Admission for the two games is $5 for general admission and $3 for students and elders.

Go Falcons.

NEW January Language Class

Come speak your Native language this January -- No language experience needed!

Date: Wednesdays & Thursdays: 8 classes (Jan. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24)
Time: 5:30-7:30pm
Location: WLRP office @ Summerfield Park (800 Falmouth Rd. Suite 307 - upstairs, enter by the blinds & kitchen storefronts)

You will learn how to:
Introduce yourself and others
Name common items
Discuss the weather
Play board games and card games in the language
Role play in the language (going to the grocery store, the doctor, etc.)

This is a safe learning environment with varied levels of speakers. Contact: Tracy Kelley (tkwamp@gmail.com)

Language Community Night: Friday, January 18th 4:30-6:30pm

WLRP will be hosting a community night in the Mukayuhsak Weekuw classrooms & MWT gym on Friday, January 18 from 4:30 – 6:30 PM.

Join language students & families from Coombs, Quashnet and Mukayuhsak Weekuw for games, songs, prayers, stories and a dinner! Community Night is held monthly as part of WLRP’s Numukayuhsunônak (Our Children Speak Two Languages) program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education.

Contacts: Toodie Coombs (tcoombs@wlrp.org) & Jennifer Weston (jweston@wlrp.org)

Home Rehabilitation Lottery 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 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.
To build on the island, the two trusts needed three variances — one that would have relieved the proposed home from a bylaw requiring that it be located on a street; another to relieve it from a requirement of 150 feet of frontage on a street; and one to relieve it of a requirement that the property have an “unobstructed paved access roadway” within 150 feet of the furthest point of any building on the property for emergency personnel access, according to Brian Wall, the attorney representing the island trusts.

The trust applied for these variances in 2013, but the original proposal did not include a bridge, Wall said at the board’s Dec. 12 meeting. The variances were denied at that time.

The Tribe applauds the Mashpee Zoning board for seeing the long-term impact building on wetlands will have on the environment.

The Tribe’s Community Development Corporation Applauds Clean Water Legislation

The Tribe’s Community Development Corporation, which continues to assess the viability of an exchange with the Air National Guard for the wastewater treatment facility on Otis, is in full support of legislation that was finalized in the Massachusetts House and Senate on Thursday, December 20. The legislation will regulate short-term housing rentals through websites like Airbnb and includes an important tax that will establish a Cape and Islands Water Protection Fund.

The new legislation allows local municipalities to levy a 2-6 percent tax on all short-term rental units in addition to the 5.7 percent hotel and motel tax. Most Cape towns are already at 4 percent for that local option, with only four at 6 percent, which would automatically apply for short-term rentals, according to state Sen. Julian Cyr, D-Truro.

An additional 2.75 percent tax will be imposed on short-term rentals locally to establish and fund the Cape and Islands Water Protection Fund, creating a dedicated funding stream for the region’s multibillion-dollar wastewater cleanup efforts.

This is welcome news for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community Development Corporation that is exploring an exchange with the 102nd Air National Guard that would significantly improve the short- and long-term water quality in the surrounding towns.

That could mean $1 billion in funding for wastewater infrastructure on the Cape and Islands, Cyr said.

“Christmas came early for Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket,” he said. “It’s been a long road to pass short-term rental legislation and I want to commend Rep. Sarah Peake for her dogged determination to finally realize this critical priority was passed on Beacon Hill.”

Peake, who is a member of House leadership, was optimistic about the new bill’s chances Thursday afternoon.

“I’m thrilled that it’s done and hopeful the Senate will accept the amendment and we can get it across the goal line,” she said.

Community Development Corporation Applauds Clean Water Legislation

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Descendants of the country’s earliest settlers greeted by the Wampanoag people are backing the tribe in a fight to secure about 321 acres of reservation land under threat.

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants, made up of about 30,000 lineal descendants of the Mayflower Pilgrims, announced last month that it supports legislation pending in Congress that would end a legal challenge to the tribe’s reservation and bar future lawsuits.

The group’s governor general, George P. Garmany Jr., said in a statement the agreement between the Europeans and Native Americans in 1621, which led to 54 years of peace, is the “only example of cooperation” in American history.

“This is a truly historic moment in which descendants of the Mayflower Pilgrims stand shoulder to shoulder with us as descendants of the Wampanoag people who broke bread and brokered a long-lasting peace with their ancestors,” Cromwell said.

Leaders of the Wampanoag Nation in 1629 deeded land to the Pilgrims to establish Plymouth Colony, according to the tribe.

The society has drafted a letter to Congress formally endorsing the legislation, which was last reviewed by the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs in July.

In the letter, Garmany said he found it "unconscionable" that the Interior Department ruled that the tribe was not under federal jurisdiction at the time of the Indian Reorganization Act’s passage — a requirement spelled out in a 2009 Supreme Court decision known as Carcieri v. Salazar — which is the reasoning used in the Sept. 7 decision.

It is unclear whether the legislation will be taken up this session.

The group’s support comes after the tribe announced it would have to shutter its school, slash programs and lay off more employees next year should the bill fail. The tribe’s financial backers, Genting Malaysia, recently announced a $440 million loss associated with its investment in the casino project.

By Tanner Stening | Cape Cod Times

Chairman’s Column (continued)

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“In light of the fact that our ancestors collectively chose to live in peace for 54 years, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants fully supports today’s Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and joins in support of legislation known as the Mashpee Wampanoag Reservation Reaffirmation Act,” Garmany said.

On Dec. 8, the society voted to contact legislators, urging them to protect the tribe’s reservation land in Mashpee and Taunton, where the tribe hopes to build a $1 billion resort-casino.

Neighbors of the proposed casino sued the U.S. Department of the Interior in 2016, challenging the agency’s decision to take the tribe’s land in trust, effectively creating the reservation. A federal judge ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, and the trust land decision was sent back to the department for reconsideration.

After nearly two years, the Interior Department reversed course on Sept. 7, declaring the tribe ineligible for trust lands and casting doubt on its prospects for future self-governance.

In a statement, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell said the society’s support “demonstrates that reconciliation and reciprocity are still possible” at a time of bitter division.

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By Tanner Stening | Cape Cod Times

Chairman Cedric Cromwell
Qaqeemasq (Running Bear

Kutāputunumuw;
EPA Visit Tribe

Last month the USA-Region One (New England) Administrator Alexandra Dapolito Dunn along with Indian Program Manager Michael Stover and Grant Project Officer Kwabena Kyey-Aboagye with Mashpee Wampanoag Natural Resources Director Chuckie Green to view first hand the environmental issues that the Tribe is tackling.

Administrator Dunn was particularly impressed with the work the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe have done to utilize EPA Healthy Communities grant funding to reduce nitrogen levels in Popponesset Bay through oyster aquaculture. This same type of funding supports Native Youth in Science Preserving Our Homeland summer camp program.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Natural Resources Department is committed to developing a comprehensive plan to establish an illegal dumping prevention and monitoring program in the Mashpee Wildlife Refuge and on tribal lands, providing training and employment opportunities to tribal members in the environmental and natural resources field, and continuing our role as stewards of our ancestral lands.

Career Pathways for Tribal Youth Coordinate College Tours

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department Career Pathways for Tribal Youth has organized a series of college tours over the next few months for high school juniors and seniors and a parent or guardian. The College tours include transportation to and from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center, hotel stay and a per diem provided for the student and 1 parent/legal guardian.

The college tours are funded in part by The NYCP Building Pathways for Tribal Youth Program and grant funding.

Most of the college tours will be day trips and will depart from the Community and Government Center on a Saturday at 11:00 a.m. The overnight trips to Bowdoin College in Maine and the New Mexico Native American colleges and Institute of American Indian Arts will have a separate schedule that will come out as we get closer to those trips.

Below is a full list of the scheduled college tours:

- Saturday, January 19 - Stonehill College Easton MA (with Men’s basketball game at 3:30 vs. Southern Connecticut State Univ.)
- Saturday, February 2 - Tufts University Medford, MA
- Saturday, February 9 - Bridgewater State University Bridgewater MA (with Men’s basketball game at 1:00 vs. Framingham State University)
- April vacation week: Bowdoin College, Maine (2 days); New Mexico Native American colleges (including Institute of American Indian Arts) (5 days)

It is strongly recommended that you RSVP as quickly as possible as seats can fill up. To RSVP or to get additional information, please contact John Hanlon in the Education Department at 508-237-0041 or at john.hanlon@mwtribe-nsn.gov.

Artist of Color Residency 2019 in Provincetown

The Provincetown Community Compact is pleased to once again offer the David Bethuel Jamieson Artist Residency for people of color at C-Scape Dune Shack. Applications for all dune shack residencies are due January 15, 2019.

The residency is open to artists of color and includes three weeks in the C-Scape Dune Shack in the Cape Cod National Seashore and a $500 fellowship.

For more information about the dune shack residency visit https://thecompact.org/Artist-of-Color-Residency.html
In the woods, on the other side of the Wakeby, on the Canaumet, a Great Pine has been asked for its life to build the Great Mashoon, as dried grasses, twigs, and sticks are piled around its base.

Honor songs and prayers are sent to the soft blowing winds, with tobacco bundles adorned, a sacred fire is lit.

All in Prayer one speaks.

“Oh Great Pine with such height and girth, we have not seen another like you, with your limbs falling of age, and your children at your feet that run so deep. We ask you to give yourself for a great cause, the Great Mashoon, to carry us across the waters. We will take your children and plant them around our sacred circle and stories of you will be told for generations to come. Your skin will be used for our Wetu, in which we use for our sweats. Your blood will be used for medicine and to fasten our feathers to our arrows, and your needles will be used for healing.”

As the morning seeps its way through the dew, the chipping on the southwest side is of many, some with tears in their eyes of gratitude, some of love, but many have both.

A sharp crack finds its way from the base to the tip of the tree, its voice saying:

“My people I have been waiting for many moons. I have seen many winters and have many stories to tell. Go to your inner voice and I will share before I rest on the bed of my Mother.

You see I have watched children at play from a distance while the winged ones have nest themselves upon me, I have seen many births as the chipmunks, squirrels, deer, and others feast upon my cones.

They are carriers, so you see I have younger family through the Canaumet.

My roots run deep, however throughout the years the woodpecker has left me vulnerable in certain places, only to let the termites feast upon me.

I have sent my blood to heal for many sunrises and sets, but the holes are of too many now.

So it’s with great honor I give myself to my people and I will take my people safely across the waters.”

As the voice came to a soft fade and songs at a fever pitch, a thunderous snap split through the ears of all.

And as the Great Pine started to fall it took many limbs of others with it.

Snap-crackle-snap, as it laid itself down on its mother, a sweet smell of pine travels Southwest, weaving its way through the others.

By Medicine Man-Soaring Eagle Cash
Wampanoag citizens from all tribal communities are invited to an information session hosted by the Wampanoag Advisory Committee to Plymouth 400 and SmokeSygnals to learn about exhibits, events and activities being planned for the upcoming commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower upcoming in 2020. The two-part session to be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Government Center on Saturday, January 12 from 11 am to 2 pm will invite input and seek tribal artisans to participate in an historic wampum belt project.

The opening session will be devoted to the Wampanoag Advisory Committee, made up of citizens of the Aquinnah, Herring Pond and Mashpee tribes. They will outline the work that has been done to develop programs and exhibits including “Our” Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History.

The second session will be devoted to SmokeSygnals which has been funded by the British Arts Council to manage an 12-month project to produce a six foot long wampum belt of more than 9,000 beads. The belt will be made exclusively by Wampanoag artisans over the next 12 months and will be exhibited in England before it is brought back to Martha’s Vineyard. To reserve a shuttle ride please contact Paula Peters at paula@SmokeSygnals.com.

We Are Making History! Come learn how you can take part on January 12th

Chowder and refreshments will be served between the two sessions. Island residents must rsvp for a free shuttle service to the info session to be provided to and from Woods Hole meeting the ferry departing Vineyard Haven at 9:30 am and arriving in Woods Hole at 10:15 am. Island participants will be returned to Woods Hole for the 3:45 ferry back to Martha’s Vineyard. To reserve a shuttle ride please contact Paula Peters at paula@SmokeSygnals.com.

Election Committee Seeking Volunteers

The Election Committee is seeking volunteers and monitors for the upcoming regular election on Sunday, February 10, 2019. The Committee is also seeking a moderator for the candidates forum.

Education Department Open House on January 25

The Education Department will hold an Open House on Friday, January 25 at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. The open house will start at 5:00 p.m. and is for all native students from kindergarten to college and their families. There will be plenty of information to share along with food, door prizes, raffles, drumming and much more. Please save the date on your calendar and stay tuned for additional details.

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.

The date for the forum is TBA. If interested, please email Rita Lopez at Rita.lopez@mwtribe-nsn.gov.