Chairman’s Column

Wunee keesuq Tribal family,

There are a few topics that I’d like to cover in my column this month. Most notably are our efforts to see the Congressional legislation passed to forever protect our homeland and our upcoming tribal elections on February 10. These are two topics that will have a significant impact on our tribal nation for years to come.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation and Reaffirmation Act is vital to our tribal economy, community and culture. Thankfully we have broad support for the bill across both sides of the aisle. Bipartisan support headed by our Congressman William Keating who refilled the bill along with co-sponsor Joseph Kennedy last month. The new bill is HR 312. Please consider contacting your congressman or congresswoman and letting them know you support passage of this bill.

We also have far more local politics taking place in our community. We have a tribal election on Sunday, February 10 for six tribal council members. We have several tribal members that have stepped up to serve their community that include Carlton Hendricks, Denise Johnson Hatha-way, Winnie Johnson Graham, Yvonne Avant, Aaron Tobey, Brian Weeden, Joanne Frye, Rita Pocknett Gonsalves, and Marie Stone. Offering to sit on council is a selfless commitment to serve your community and each of the following candidates have been certified by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Election Committee as meeting the eligibility requirements to seek office on the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council at the February 10, 2019 Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Election.

Tribal Council Member
Carlton Hendricks Jr. (i)
Denise Johnson-Hathaway
Edwina Johnson-Graham (i)

Yvonne Avant (i)
Aaron Tobey Jr.
Brian Weeden
Joanne Frye
Rita Pocknett Gonsalves
Marie Stone

(i) = Incumbents
Certified by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Election Committee

Congress Reintroduces House Tribal Bill HR 312

The Congressional legislation that could protect the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s reservation was introduced to the House of Representatives in its new session, a sign of hope for the tribe in the new year.

Congressman William R. Keating (D-Massachusetts) refiled HR 5244, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act, along with co-sponsor Congressman Joseph Kennedy III (D-Massachusetts). The reintroduced bill was filed as HR 312, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act.

Included in HR 312 is an amendment that reinforces the Intergovernmental Agreement signed between the tribe and Town of Mashpee in 2008, known as the

“Meet the Candidates” Forum on February 5

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Election Committee invites Tribal Citizens to attend and participate in the 2019 “Meet the Candidates” Forum on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center located at 483 Great Neck Road South in Mashpee. Candidates will also have an opportunity to greet voters prior to the forum in the lobby (only) from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The forum is a great opportunity to get a better understanding of who the candidates for Tribal Council are and what they plan to do for our tribe. Currently there are six tribal council seats to be filled in the upcoming February 10, 2019 election.

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New Events

February 5 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Meet the Candidates Forum, MWTCGC
February 10 - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tribal Election, MWTCGC
February 19 to 22 - 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. Pup8n “Winter” Vacation Camp, MWTCGC
February 28 - 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Language Community Night, MWTCGC
March 10 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. General Body Meeting, MWTCGC
March 25 - 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mukayuhsak Weekuku Preschool Math Night and Kindergarten Fall Registration, MWTCGC

Weekly Events

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
NEW Tuesdays – 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Zumba with Shirley, 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 – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Elders Lunch & Learn, MWTCGC

Monthly Meetings

First Saturday of the Month – 11 a.m. Elders Meeting, MWTCGC
First Tuesday of the Month – 6:00 p.m. Chief’s Circle, Old Indian Meeting House

Food Pantry Hours

Monday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

For new language class schedules visit www.wlrp.org/mashpee.html

Emergency Management Department Receives FAA Certification for Drone Operations

Back in November of 2018 the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Management Department crossed some exciting milestones toward helping to make the community safer and to help aid those impacted by natural disaster.

Emergency Management Director Nelson Andrews along with Emergency Preparedness Specialist Allyssa Hathaway completed a 2-day drone safety training and passed an FAA Remote Pilot certification. An application with the Federal Aviation Administration for a Certificate of Authorization or COA was also filed. The COA allows the Tribe to have additional waivers that normally are not available to commercially licensed drone pilots. What is remarkable about this milestone is that the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is among only a few government entities in New England and the first on Cape Cod to legally fly drones.

With the departments new drone the Inspire 1 Pro (considered to be the standard for emergency services) Nelson and Allyssa are now able to add survey mapping and most importantly assist with the search of missing pets or missing people. The drones high resolution thermal camera is sensitive to fractions of a degree and can quickly survey an area that otherwise would take a team or responders hours to clear.

Diabetes Management Program

Mashpee Indian Health Services will be offering a four-week diabetes program. The diabetes program will begin on Monday, March 11 (program held each Monday) from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the MSU Administration Building located directly behind the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center.

The four-week program will provide education, support and skills to effectively achieve diabetes control. Controlling blood glucose level is the cornerstone in reducing or preventing secondary complications.

The goal of the program is to improve health status and life quality through effective self-care management and is open to all tribal members and families.

For questions and information about registering call Lesley McKeen at 508-539-6917.

Enrollment Committee Seeking Members

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe currently has open seats on its Enrollment Committee. One of the most important responsibilities of the Enrollment Committee is to review enrollment applications. Please visit the Tribal website at https://mashpeewampanoagtribe-nsn.gov/enrollment to review the Enrollment Ordinance.

If you are interested in serving as an Enrollment Committee member, please send your letter of interest to Francie Dottin, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Chairman, at Francie.Dottin@mwtribe-NSN.gov.
The 360 Project – Turning Lives Around

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s Health and Human Services Department has kicked off the “360 Project” to further address the ongoing opioid epidemic. The project is funded by SAMHSA under the Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) grant opportunity.

The 360 Project seeks to address the opioid epidemic by ways of decreasing the stigma and misuse of all substances and increasing holistic and cultural wellness with a strong focus on self-education, self-empowerment and self-sustaining.

Our goal is to decrease the misuse of all substances that are addictive and harmful and take a preventative measure approach to engage the tribal community to become the key to healing. Tribal members will have an opportunity to share their gifts and good medicine through approved effective PSA’s proposal’s that will be benefit the overall wellness of our Tribal community. Through the efforts of coming together, teaching, supporting and respecting each other, the 360 Project plans to be a best-practice methodology.

The 360 Project will serve all Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal members and their families by:

• Conducting a Community Wellness / Needs Assessment to determine further HHS programming.
• Creating a 2-year calendar of community-driven culturally-infused wellness programs, services and activities.
• Improving education and access to the Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) services for recovery support.
• Providing direct Peer Recovery Coaching by a Tribal (PRC) Specialist.

If you have anyone that is interested in giving back to our community please submit a “Proposal for Service” form to the MWT HHS department. For more information please contact Councilwoman Cheryl Frye-Cromwell, HHS Manager Unique Lopes Forde or Pamela Scully -MSPI/Tribal Action Plan Manager for more information about the 360 Project. MWT-508-477-0208 (EXT 171)

Zumba with Shirley
Tuesdays from 5-6 PM

Zumba with Shirley is back. Classes began on Tuesday, January 8 and are running Tuesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. The zumba classes are free of charge and all are welcome. It’s open to the public so bring your friends.

For more information, please contact Shirley Jackson at (508) 524-8770.
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

Chairman’s Column (continued)

them should be commended for making themselves available in this way.

There’s also going to be a Candidates Forum on February 5 from 6-8 PM at our Community and Government Center with a candidate meet and greet from 5-6 PM in the lobby. I strongly encourage all tribal members to attend this important event and learn as much as possible about each candidate. It’s our responsibility as citizens to make informed decisions that will guide the direction of our Tribe.

I’d also like to take a moment and thank three of our council members that will not seeking reelection. Councilwoman Winona Pocknett supported our tribal operations at every turn. Councilman Robert Dias committed himself to our youth and Councilwoman Cheryl Frye-Cromwell worked tirelessly to improve our tribal health. It has been an honor to serve with them and I know that they will continue to serve us well in new capacities.

We have many challenges and opportunities in the near future for our community. I have and continue to commit myself to seeing that we overcome these challenges and nurture the opportunities presented to strengthen our Tribal Nation for many generations to come.

Kutâputunumuw;
Chairman Cedric Cromwell
Qaqeemasq (Running Bear)

Chairman’s Column

Dental Incentive Prize Winner

Congratulations to Donna Lokeman the Mashpee Wampanoag Family Dental Clinic November Incentive Prize Winner. Each month one lucky patient of the clinic is chosen at random as the winner and is able to select a prize. Prizes include items such as an electric toothbrush, a water pick or a dental care package.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Dental Clinic is part of the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit-Indian Health Services. The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and located directly behind the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. To make an appointment at the clinic or for more information, please call the main office at (508) 477-6967.

Snow Removal Services Needed in Taunton

The Tribe is seeking snow removal services for tribal property in Taunton. Any tribally-owned businesses interested in snow removal/plowing this year for Tribal property in Taunton, please contact Councilwoman Yvonne Avant at (774) 238-8388 or yvonne.avant@mwtribe-nsn.gov.

Mashpee Indian Health Services is Hiring

There are currently several open positions within the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Health Clinic and Dental Clinic. Currently listed positions include Dental Assistant, Nurse, Registered Nurse, Medical Records Technician and Custodial Worker. To learn more about these positions and application requirements, please visit www.usajobs.gov and search “Mashpee.”

Nashauonk Mittark
Congress Reintroduces House Tribal Bill HR 312 (continued)

GA. The amendment was pushed for inclusion on the bill by the Mashpee Board of Selectmen to protect the town from future land-claim lawsuits.

Tribal leaders, and town officials, are praising the effort of the Massachusetts delegation to reintroduce the bill, as well as the bipartisan backers supporting the bill.

"With our limited resources dwindling, we have already had to cut back on vital services and programs we had established to serve our Tribal citizens. Should we lose our reservation, our ability to operate as a Tribal government would be crushed," said Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council chairman Cedric Cromwell in a statement issued on Monday, January 7.

"We are extremely grateful that a bipartisan group of Congressional representatives understands the injustice of taking sovereign land away from the first Americans and have moved swiftly to ensure this nation does not return to the dark days of removing indigenous people from their land," Mr. Cromwell said.

The tribe has been fighting for its 320-acre reservation since a federal judge in 2016 ruled that the US Department of Interior needed to revise its decision for granting the tribe land in trust. Since that ruling, the Interior Department decided that the tribe was not under federal jurisdiction at the time of the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act, and thus not eligible for land in trust.

The tribe has since challenged that decision in a district court in the District of Columbia. Congressman Keating also filed legislation last year that would overrule the recent Interior Department decision, as well as the lower federal court ruling, and protect the tribe’s reservation.

Since the bill’s introduction, it has garnered wide support from Republicans and Democrats in the US House of Representatives. The bill currently has 23 cosponsors, including three key Republican congressmen with oversight of Indian Affairs signing on as co-sponsors: congressmen Don Young (R-Alaska), Thomas McClintock (R-California) and Douglas LaMalfa (R-California).

The bill also has backing from town officials in Mashpee.

"I am pleased that the bill has been filed again and hopefully the outcome will be different in this session," said Mashpee Town Manager Rodney C. Collins. The town manager confirmed that he received word from Congressman Keating on Friday that the bill had been reintroduced.

The town’s board of selectmen had originally held back support for the bill, fearing that an intergovernmental agreement between the tribe and town would be null and void with the passage of the legislation. The IGA is essentially an agreement that the town would support the tribe’s efforts to secure land in trust if the tribe did not claim ownership of land in Mashpee. Among other things, the agreement stipulated that the tribe would not pursue gaming, which is allowed on trust lands, in Mashpee.

After some debate, Mr. Cromwell agreed to the amendment in the legislation. Some members of the tribe, however, have said that the tribal council chairman should have received support of the rest of the council before moving forward. A lawsuit has been filed in tribal court over the matter.

The federal bill was introduced to the House and Senate this past March, and has since had an introductory hearing in the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaskan Natives. The legislation has yet to move forward to a full committee hearing.

In an interview Monday, Congressman Keating said that the bill, with a new Congress, has fresh momentum.

The congressman said that with support from key members of the subcommittee, as well as across the aisle, he is optimistic about its eventual passage. He said that he has spoken with the Democratic leadership about putting the bill on the fast track. "There is an urgency on this and we want to get it passed," Congressman Keating said.

The congressman said that he has been approached by leaders from other tribes who not only share their appreciation for his efforts, but his optimism.

The tribe’s potential loss of land in trust could have an impact on the federal level.

Tribal leaders across the country have questioned whether the federal government is formulating a new policy when dealing with Indian tribes, similar to those from an earlier period when the United States actively moved to disestablish Native American reservations.

But the Mashpee Reservation Act would be a Congressional move to stop such a policy.

The reintroduced bill is one of the first of the new session.

“We are the first indigenous tribal nation to sign a peace treaty with the Pilgrims and provide the land for them to establish Plymouth Colony," Mr. Cromwell said. "So it is fitting that one of the first bills to be introduced in this new Congress, in this New Year, is one that would protect our ancestral homelands from being stripped away from us."

By SAM HOUGHTON | Mashpee Enterprise
The Mashpee Historical Commission and the Mashpee Public Library have joined together to cosponsor a Speaker’s Program. The programs will be held at the Mashpee Public Library on the first Saturday of the month, starting at 2:00 pm. The program is free and refreshments will be served. All are invited. Programs will run during the months of February, March, April, May, June, October and November 2019 and will be a lead up to the town’s 150th Anniversary in 2020.

The first program will take place on February 2, 2019 at 2:00 pm at the Mashpee Public Library. It features Mashpee Nine, a film and discussion with Paula Peters. Paula will introduce her moving film of the 1976 event in Mashpee that shocked the community. It is a story of “injustice, outrage, activism and vindication that fostered cultural pride and unity among the Mashpee Wampanoags.” A Question and Answer period will follow. Paula will autograph her book Mashpee Nine which will also be for sale.

The March 2, 2019 program is entitled Climate Change and Rivers: Global to Local Perspective with Woods Hole Research Center scientist Anya Suslova. This all-important talk, with ramifications for Mashpee, will include a brief film.

On April 6, 2019 historian and attorney Barbara Berenson will speak on her new book, “Massachusetts in the Woman Suffrage Movement: Revolutionary Reformers.” Barbara is the author of numerous books on Boston, Abolitionism and the Civil War. Her book comes in advance of the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote.

On May 4, 2019 Mashpee resident Steven Kramer will recount the moving story of his father’s experience as a navigator in a B-17 during WWII, who was shot down over Berlin in 1944 and spent a year in Stalag III, a POW camp in a program entitled “An Individual’s Story of World War II, a Prisoner of War, and the Recent Experience of Visiting a Nazi Concentration Camp.”

On the Second Saturday in June, The Origins and Early History of Wilsons Grove - the Beginnings of Popponesset will take place with Popponesset resident Dr. George East. He will trace the beginnings of Wilsons Grove in the Popponesset section of Mashpee. His program includes an incredible number of photographs showing how the area use to look and how it has changed over time.

### The Old Indian Meeting House Committee is pleased to announce the events planned for 2019.

**Wampanoag New Year Celebration - Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Indian Meeting House.** Following the celebration, a Potluck luncheon will be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center.

**Blind Joe Amos Sunday Service – Sunday, July 21, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Indian Meeting House.** The annual service is held in partnership with the Mashpee Baptist Church and citizens of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

**Richard Bourne Sunday Service – Sunday, August 18, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Indian Meeting House.** The annual service is held in partnership with the Mashpee Baptist Church and citizens of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

**Ancestors’ Day – Saturday, September 21, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Indian Meeting House.** The annual event provides an opportunity to remember those that have passed. Following the ceremony, a potluck luncheon will be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center.

**Native American Thanks Giving - Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Indian Meeting House.** Following the service, a potluck luncheon will be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center.

### Pup8n “Winter” Vacation Camp

The Mashpee Wampanoag Education Department is offering a four-day winter camp for kids between grades 1 and 6. The fun-filled camp will run during the public school February Vacation from February 19-22 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM daily.

The camp is open to 25 students on a first come, first served basis that are in grades 1-6. Children will enjoy a variety of fun activities including preparing a traditional feast, a field trip to the New England Aquarium, STEM at the Waquoit Bay Research and Reserve, the Cape Cod Children’s Museum and many cultural activities, games, songs and dances.

Healthy snacks will be provided daily. For more information or to reserve a spot for your child, please contact Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Indian Education Coordinator Kitty Hendricks-Miller at (508) 477-0208 ext. 143.
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Management Department

In November of 2018 the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe crossed some exciting milestones toward helping to make the community safer and to help aid those impacted by natural disaster. In early November, Nelson Andrews Jr, the Tribe’s Emergency Management Director along with Allyssa Hathaway, the Tribe’s Emergency Preparedness Specialist both participated in a customized two-day ground school provided by David Price, Co-Founder of the Drone Consultant Group (DCG). DCG is a company based in Massachusetts that provides drone safety training and certification to clients ranging from local town, to statewide and federal clients both public and private.

In early 2018 the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Management Department (MWTEMD) acquired the Small Unmanned Aircraft (sUAS) AKA; drone called the Inspire 1 Pro made by DJI. This model of drones is considered to be the standard for emergency services and can be used for many different types of missions.

Survey Mapping
The Tribe’s new drone capabilities can be used to perform multiple kinds of mapping missions. This can be used to map all of the tribe’s properties as an accurate and inexpensive form of asset management and hazard mitigation base mapping on the Cape with accuracy levels of just a few inches. These types of missions will be most useful when natural disasters impact the area and post storm damage needs to be assessed by insurers and Government entities. The Tribe’s aircraft are capable of mapping areas near coastlines to measure erosion, and can measure volumes accurate to 99%.

Also because the Tribe is building new housing properties in Mashpee along Meetinghouse Road. The Inspire 1 Pro went out in late December to create a survey map of the area. This survey map can be used to help develop property boundaries and help measure acreage, in addition to project progression.

Another type of mission that the Tribe’s new aircraft can perform is the inspection of Tribal buildings for storm dam-age, asset management, and even to measure snow depths to determine if a roof is at risk of collapse. During one windy day this past October, a drone smaller then the Inspire 1, the Mavic flew autonomously around the Tribal Community and Government Center on Great Neck Road South and was able to quickly create something called an ortho photo. An ortho photo is when many photos are "stitched" together to create a composite image.

Lost and Found
One of the best reasons for acquiring the Tribe’s new aircraft is to assist in search missions for missing people and even pets by using the Tribe’s Zenmuse XT camera, a high resolution thermal camera, that is mounted under the drone. This thermal camera is sensitive to fractions of a degree and identical already have been used in Massachusetts to find missing people and dog’s successfully. By using this aircraft with the thermal camera, the Tribe’s Emergency Management office can even take images of people’s home or other properties to identify areas of heat loss, whether through parts of windows or roofs that may need more insulation.

Incredible Milestone
As a government entity, the MWTEMD also filed an application with the Federal Aviation Administration for a Certificate of Authorization or COA. The COA allows the Tribe to have additional waivers that normal commercially licensed drone pilots may not have. The COA is how military pilots are certified to fly. They are certified by the FAA. The COA also means that the MWTEMD can self-certify the tribe’s own pilots for the future!

What is remarkable about this milestone is that the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is among only a few government entities in New England and the first on Cape Cod to legally fly drones.

While both Nelson and Allyssa did also earned the FAA Remote Pilot certification which is required for commercial drone operations, the two of them are now positioned to be the leading drone experts in all of south-eastern Massachusetts!

Seeking Wampum Beads and Weavers

Smokesygnals is seeking Wampanoag artisans that are skilled in either wampum bead production or traditional weaving (some training will be provided for the weaving). The project, The Wampum Belt, is funded by the The Arts Council of England and Plymouth City Council of England and will consist of a five to six foot long wampum belt and a documentary. Wampanoag Artists that participate in the bead making or weaving will be paid a fair and competitive rate for their service.

Wampum beads will be 8 to 10 mm long and 4 to 6 mm wide drilled through the length of the bead with a 1.4 mm hole. White beads may be made from whelk or quahog shell. Purple beads must be made from quahog shell. Artisans will be paid for qualifying beads at a rate of $300 per foot. The rate for the weavers will be determined as soon as the design is finalized.

For more information please contact Paula Peters at paula@smokesygnals.com or bead manager Jason widdiss at jwidds78@aol.com and weaving manager Linda Coombs at bornagainpatuxet@yahoo.com.