Chairman’s Column

Wunee keesuq Tribal family,

I’d like to thank each and every tribal citizen that participated in the election on February 10 – participating as a candidate, volunteering at elections and casting a vote. We had 472 Tribal Citizens come out and vote in our 2019 election. This serves as a symbol of a strong, healthy and engaged tribal body that cares about the direction we move as a nation over the next few years.

I also want to thank our tribal body for exercising your sovereign rights, providing positive energy into the process and taking time out of your day to attend the elections at our Community and Government Center. Your voice was heard.

With nine actively engaged candidates that ran spirited campaigns for six Tribal Council seats in the election last month, along with several strong write-in selections, our tribal body had a wide array of choices. And in the end your votes and voice selected three incumbents and three new council members to serve our tribe over the next four years.

I look forward to continuing our work at the council table with Councilman Carlton Hendricks and Councilwoman Winnie Johnson-Graham and Councilwoman Yvonne Avant. I also want to welcome our three new council members Brian Weeden, Rita Pocknett-Gonsalves and Aaron Tobey, Jr., and working cooperatively with...
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Elections Results from Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019

On Sunday, February 10 tribal members cast 472 ballots electing six tribal council members to serve four-year terms. Carlton Hendricks Jr., Winnie Johnson-Graham and Yvonne Avant were reelected and Brian Weeden, Rita Pocknett-Gonsalves and Aaron Tobey, Jr. were elected to serve on Tribal Council. The results of the election are:

- Brian Weeden – 346
- Rita Pocknett-Gonsalves – 309
- Carlton Hendricks Jr. – 232
- Winnie Johnson-Graham – 212
- Aaron Tobey, Jr. – 201
- Yvonne Avant – 187
- Marie Stone – 177
- Joanne Frye – 173
- Denise Johnson-Hathaway -131
- Total number of write-in votes – 241

The elected council members were sworn in at the February 20 Tribal Council Meeting.

Tribal Elders Host Helping Hands Ham and Bean Dinner

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Elders hosted a “Helping Hands” Ham and Bean Dinner on Friday, February 15 at the Community and Government Center. Community members were able to donate gently used coats and blankets during the dinner. The donations were then distributed to local families. In addition, any families that were in need were able to enjoy the Ham and Bean Dinner at no cost. The Tribal Elders have and continue to support tribal families in many ways.
A memorandum of understanding will continue another year between the Town of Mashpee and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to supply public safety on tribal lands. Mashpee selectmen signed the fourth year-long agreement February 11, the first time the compromise was reached without any public contention.

The year-long memorandum essentially lays the groundwork for the town to supply some emergency services on tribal sovereign ground. The memorandum reads like a mutual aid agreement. It states that the tribe intends to serve jurisdiction over trust lands in accordance with federal law, while accepting the city’s fire and emergency service during an interim period.

According to the memorandum, state and local government hold criminal jurisdiction over non-Native Americans on the trust lands.

According to the document, the tribe would grant permission to city officers for them to enter the trust lands for the purpose of law enforcement of non-native Americans. City police must ascertain the identity of the subject and inquire if the subject is Native American.

In the event the subject claims to be Native American but is not in possession of a Tribal Enrollment Card, a city officer shall contact a tribal police officer to verify the status. If the subject is a non-native, the city officer will take jurisdiction; if the subject is a tribal member, a tribal officer would detain the subject.

If a city officer believes a Native American threatens public safety, the officer must provide a notice of entry onto the trust land and report the identity of the Native American. The city official can detain the Native American subject until the tribal officer assumes custody of the individual. The tribal officer will make every effort to detain the subject within two hours, and the city must then “immediately” release the subject.

By SAM HOUGHTON

April Vacation Camp for Students

The Mashpee Wampanoag Education Department is pleased to offer a 4-day April camp for kids between the grades of 1 and 6. The fun-filled camp will coincide with the public school break and will be held April 15 to April 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. The camp is open to 25 students on a first come, first served basis.

Registration opens on Monday, April 1. Healthy snacks will be provided daily. For more information or to RSVP (on or after April 1) please contact Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Indian Education Coordinator Kitty Hendricks-Miller at (508) 477-0208 ext. 143.

Language Community Night March 29

Join us at the MWT Community & Govt. Center for Wôp language games, stories, songs & prayer (4:30-5:30) followed by a potluck dinner (5:30-6:30).

For children and families enrolled & interested in Mukayuhsak Weekuw (The Children’s House) and the Numukayuhsunônak (Our Children Speak Two Languages) Coombs/Quashnet after school program. Tribal household members and employees welcome!

Contact Jennifer, Language Director, with questions (jweston@wlrp.org / 508.477.0208 ext. 168).

Town and Tribe Extend Public Safety MOU

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By SAM HOUGHTON

Alexyss Galvin Named to Deans List at Plymouth State University

Congratulations to Alexyss Galvin, daughter of Nerissa Andrews and granddaughter of Nelson and Wanda Andrews, for making the deans list at Plymouth State University for the Fall 2018 semester. To be named to the Dean’s List, a student must achieve a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.69 during the Fall 2018 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester.
Traditional Dance Classes on Thursdays

Looking to get ready for Powwow? Traditional dance classes are being held Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Community and Government Center. The classes will continue through the end of June.

Tribe Seeking Transportation Driver

There is currently an open, full-time position for a transportation driver. The driver will operate the tribal vehicles bringing tribal members to scheduled appointments or activities. For more information visit the Tribe’s HR Page on the website.

Health Policy Fellowship for Tribal Members 18-24

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is offering an amazing opportunity for Native Americans that are enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe. The NIHB Health Policy Fellows are a diverse group of talented native youth who are dedicated to making a difference in their communities.

The Fellowship program is for 1 year and runs June 2019 to May 2020. Health Policy Fellows will meet in-person 3 times throughout the year and attend virtual trainings to grow their advocacy skills. The Fellowship pays for travel and hotel costs to attend in-person meetings. Fellows will also receive free opportunities for professional development, leadership, and skills building.

Fellows will work directly with their tribal leadership to identify one priority health issue. Then, with the support of program mentors, Fellows will learn how to analyze policy in their issue area, create informed recommendation, and advocate for change.

Applications are due March 30, 2019 by 11:59 PM. For more information and to download an application online visit https://www.nihb.org/for_youth/health_policy_fellowship.php

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.

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.

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.

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

Honoring Our Herring Day on April 17

Please join the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Education Department and Mashpee Indian Museum for family fun, activities, singing, dancing, fishing, and more at the annual Honoring Our Herring event. Honoring Our Herring will be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum on Wednesday, April 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The event is free and open to all Wampanoag youth and families. For more information, please contact Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Indian Education Coordinator Kitty Hendricks-Miller at (508) 477-0208 ext. 143.

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Tribe Seeking Transportation Driver

There is currently an open, full-time position for a transportation driver. The driver will operate the tribal vehicles bringing tribal members to scheduled appointments or activities. For more information visit the Tribe’s HR Page on the website.
Application Available for 98th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow

The Powwow Committee have posted vendor applications on the Tribe’s website. Applications for craft vendors, food vendors, and nonprofits may be downloaded online at www.mashpeewampanoag-tribe-nsn.gov/powwow. The Powwow Committee is also accepting applications for employment. For more details, please contact the Powwow Committee Tribal Council Liaison Brian Weeden at brian.weeden@mwtribe-nsn.gov or at (508) 477-0208 Ext. 119.

The 98th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow will be held July 5, 6 and 7 2019.

Career Pathways Coordinates College Tours During April Vacation

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department Career Pathways for Tribal Youth has organized a series of college tours. The final College Tours will be held over April vacation and include Bowdoin College and New Mexico Native American Colleges.

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

Scheduled college tours
April vacation week: Bowdoin College, Maine (2 days); New Mexico Native American colleges (5 days)

You must RSVP for the college tours prior to going. To RSVP or to get additional information, please contact John Hanlon at 508-237-0041 or at john.hanlon@mwtribe-nsn.gov.

Career Pathways Coordinates College Tours During April Vacation

Chairman’s Column (continued)

them in the best interest of our tribal nation.

I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again: while it’s easy to complain and criticize, it takes strength to take on the actual challenges of governing and to find solutions to the issues we face on a daily basis. And for that reason, a note of gratitude is in order for not just the winners but also those that were not elected. I sincerely hope they will remain active and engaged in tribal government.

I also want to thank our election committee and all of the Election Day volunteers. Organizing the elections, certifying the candidates, registering voters, hosting an election forum and countless other tasks have not gone unnoticed. I understand all to well the commitment and dedication required to organize an election and want to express my sincere thanks for the great work they have done.

By coming out and voting you not only have a voice in the people that will serve our Tribe, you also have a voice in the direction we move forward with and the vision we share for a brighter Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. I truly believe that a rising tide lifts all boats and promise to work tirelessly over the next few years to lift up all Mashpee Wampanoag people.

The Powwow Committee have posted vendor applications on the Tribe’s website. Applications for craft vendors, food vendors, and nonprofits may be downloaded online at www.mashpeewampanoag-tribe-nsn.gov/powwow. The Powwow Committee is also accepting applications for employment. For more details, please contact the Powwow Committee Tribal Council Liaison Brian Weeden at brian.weeden@mwtribe-nsn.gov or at (508) 477-0208 Ext. 119.

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Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Ball

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Council

Tickets: $15 ahead
$20 at the door

Please Contact Secretary Troy Stewart at 774-770-9067 or Secretary Daycia Frye at 774-487-8817 for Tickets

March 23, 2019 6-11pm

Located at the Mashpee Wampanoag Community and Government Center 483 Great Neck Road South Mashpee, MA 02649

Ages 13-21

This is a semi formal event

Please present tickets at the door if buying ahead of time

For any questions or concerns please contact Chairwoman Abigail Peters at 508-681-9886
Community Wellness Needs Assessment Survey

As part of the recently funded project by SAMHSA’s Tribal Opioid Response Grant (360 Project) the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s Health and Human Services Department is conducting a Community Wellness Needs Assessment to determine further HHS programming. Our main objective is to initiate culturally driven wellness programs, services and activities while improving education and access to Medicated Assisted Treatment services combined with direct Peer Recovery support. Your input is valued and necessary towards addressing and meeting the needs of our community. This survey is designated for all Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Members who are 18 years of age or older. Please take a moment to complete this survey link attached below at your earliest convenience and share this information/link with all members within your circle.

You may take the survey online at www.mittark.com.

Open Position: Professional Transportation Driver

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe currently has an opening for a full-time transportation drive.

Job Title: Professional Transportation Driver
Location: Mashpee Tribal Offices incl. Maushop Farm, 213 Sampsons Mill Rd.
Reports To: Transportation Coordinator
Department: Public Works
Status: Non-Exempt. Full-time 35 hrs/wk.
Salary Classification: MFS – 3; $16.91/hr.
Closing Date: Until Filled (internal and/or recently laid off personnel closing date: on Jan. 11)

Summary: The professional Transportation Driver operates tribal vehicles transporting tribal members to and from scheduled medical appointments or other activities, such as tribal meetings. Driver performs the responsible safe operations of a handicap accessible, Ford Econ-line 450, 13 passenger van. The professional Transportation Driver conducts this service in compliance with all applicable MWT/MA DOT regulations, and avoiding damage to equipment or passengers, with respect for his/her own personal safety and the safety of others on the road. He/she ensures (tribal citizens) customer service commitments and Tribal administration service targets are achieved, and protects the integrity and security of the passengers at all times. next few years to lift up all Mashpee Wampanoag people.

TOWN OF MASHPEE MAKES NOMINATION PAPERS AVAILABLE

The 2019 Annual Election Nomination Papers for the following positions will be available beginning February 4, 2019.

HOUSING AUTHORITY Vote for One for 5 Years

LIBRARY TRUSTEE Vote for Two for 3 Years

MODERATOR Vote for One for 3 Years

PLANNING BOARD Vote for Two for 3 Years

SCHOOL COMMITTEE Vote for One for 3 Years

SELECTMEN Vote for One for 3 Years

WATER COMMISSIONER Vote for One for 3 Years

The Annual Election will be held on, May 21, 2019 at Christ the King Parish. April 2, 2019 is the last day and hour to obtain and submit Nomination Papers. Any questions please call the Town Clerk’s Office at 508-539-1418.