**Chairman’s Column**

Wunee keesuq Tribal family,

Our way of life has been under attack since the European explorers arrived on our shores. They attacked us then with disease, enslavement and war. In the 19th century we were attacked with forced assimilation outlawing our traditions, culture and language. Today we’re attacked with legal definitions of federal jurisdiction and a bureaucratic litmus test so cumbersome it’s taken over 40 years. And yet we are still being asked to define our status as a people.

The pressure on our Tribe caused by the United States' failure to protect our reservation along with a few neighbors in Taunton backed by a casino developer and legislators in Rhode Island is real.

Sadly, we understand these outside threats. They’ve taken different forms from generation to generation, but they’ve always been there. We expect to face injustice and racial prejudice at every turn. What’s new is the internal threats that will inadvertently further derail our efforts to protect our land, our culture, our traditions and the many community service programs that our friends and family rely on.

We cannot continue to fight amongst ourselves like this. It’s not healthy. We have politicians on both sides of the isle that are willing to fight for us. They understand the injustice that has taken place...

**Key House Committee Approves Mashpee Wampanoag Reservation Bill**

Today the House Natural Resources Committee moved H.R. 312, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act, closer to becoming law by voting to move the bill forward out of that Committee. The Committee's strong bi-partisan action follows a positive hearing on the bill only three weeks ago, and paves the way for consideration and passage by the House of Representatives.

“Today’s action by the House Natural Resources Committee provides an incredible lift for my people. The remarkable bipartisan support of the legislation has served to be a unifying force not only across Indian Country but across the United States of America.” said Chairman Cedric Cromwell.

“We are deeply appreciative of Congressmen Keating and Ken-

**Alice Lopez Statue Unveiling on May 5**

Date: Sunday, May 5
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center

**Neepunee PÔhp8Ôk Summer Camp Registration Now Open**

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department in partnership with WLRP will be offering a summer day camp for youth 5-12 years of age. Neepunee PÔhp8Ôk Summer Camp 2019 will run July 15 to August 31.

Space is limited to 30 students. Applications may be completed online at www.mashpeewampanoagtribe-nsn.gov/education or by calling CCDF Program Manager Eileen Miranda at (508) 477-0208 ext. 152 or at Eileen.Miranda@mwtribe-nsn.gov.
Nashauonk Mittark

New Events

May 4 – 11:00 a.m.
Wampanoag New Year Celebration,
Old Indian Meeting House

May 5 – 2:00 p.m.
Alice Lopez Statue, MWTCGC

May 16 – 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Wellness Celebration Finale, MWTCGC

May 17 – 2:30 to 8:00 p.m.
3 on 3 Basketball Tournament,
MWTCGC

May 30 – 1:00 p.m.
Garden Planting Day, MWTCGC

May 31 – 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Language and Community Night,
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

Tuesdays – 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Zumba with Shirley, 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

Thursdays – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Powwow Dance Class, 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

Razors at Food Pantry

The food pantry has added the Gillette Fusion 5 Proglide to its inventory. To receive razors, stop by the food pantry during normal hours.

Wampanoag New Year Celebration on May 4

The Old Indian Meeting House Committee is extending an invitation to all tribal citizens, family, friends and guests to join them at the Old Indian Meeting House on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. for the annual Wampanoag New Year Celebration. Guests are asked to wear traditional regalia.

Following the service everyone is invited to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center for a potluck luncheon.

Mashpee Wampanoag Conduct Housing Lottery for “First Light Wampanoag Homes Development”

During the Tribe’s monthly General Membership meeting on Sunday, April 14 an historic and undoubtedly emotional moment took place for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community.

Tribal members learned who had been selected by lottery to live in the First Light Wampanoag Homes Development located on Meeting-house Road in Mashpee.

The historic event capped several weeks of housing related events. On March 30, an Honorary Partnership Ceremony took place at the site where the 42 unit housing structures will soon be constructed. Sight preparation has been underway since February.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Housing Director, Michelle Tobey along with the department staff and the Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Commission made up of seven tribal members, organized and hosted the event where some 150 people attended.

Coreen Moore, Chairwoman of the Commission and member since its inception 10 years ago, reflected on the journey and recalled memories of working with Alice Lopez the Tribe’s first Housing Director who passed away unexpectedly in 2011.

“This was a dream that Alice worked so hard for, literally until the day she we lost her. I am so proud of the tireless, important and dedicated work our Commission and department staff focuses on daily in order to make this moment possible,” said Ms. Moore.

“I also want to recognize my fellow commission members, Joan Tavares Avant, Marjorie Seagraves, Joanne Peters, Marie Stone, Laverne Floyd, Denise Kersey and long-time member, now honorary board member Carol Lopez”, she added.

Many of the attendees included invited guests and representatives from both the Department of Housing and Community Development and Raymond James Tax Credit Fund, Inc., an organization based in Saint Petersburg, Florida.

In late 2017 Governor Charlie Baker announced a $1 million grant in addition to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development award of state and federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits, totaling upwards of $11 million in equity in support of the housing project.

In addressing the guests gathered at the honoring ceremony, Ms. Tobey praised the state officials from DHCD for their unwavering support in awarding the funding. “The major infrastructure parts already in place likely made the tribe’s bid for the request a good candidate,” Ms. Tobey said. “We have been working diligently; that’s what made this application so attractive,” she added.

Continued on page 4
Tribal Member Leads Earth Day Commemoration in Plymouth

On Earth Day 2019 Darius Coombs, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Member and director of Wampanoag and Algonkian Interpretation at Plimoth Plantation led attendees to the Holmes Dam Removal and Town Brook Restoration Project where American eels and tagged river herring were released upstream of the Newfield Bridge.

The Holmes Dam Removal and Town Brook Restoration Project is a $7 million effort to improve Plymouth’s waterway conditions. Several dams have been removed since 2002 and the brook bed has been rehabilitated to create more natural environment for herring and other animal species.

The continued focus on restoring our natural environment is a direct result of the collaborative relationship that the Tribe’s Historic Preservation Department and Natural Resources Department have fostered with state and federal organizations.

Other speakers at the event included Governor Charlie Baker, U.S. Rep. William Keating; Michael Pentony, Greater Atlantic regional administrator of the Fisheries Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Eric Darleth, Massachusetts coordinator of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Plymouth Selectman John Mahoney.

Put a Face to the Name at Tribal Archives

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Historic Preservation Archives is in need of people from the past, and present to submit photos of tribal members. What we are asking for are photos to go along with names that we already have captured in our database. So please contact Denise Kersey, Archivist Apprentice, at 508-477-0208 ext. 196, to schedule a time that we can scan your photos.

Our Children Need You! Foster an ICWA Child

ICWA is currently seeking foster parents. Do you have room in your heart to provide a Native American foster home for our future generations? Our Native children of all ages, from infancy to teens that are being removed from their families at an alarming rate by the State, Department of Children and Families (DCF) and some are being placed in non-native homes.

ICWA is in high need of stable nurturing homes with kin families to care for our children until they can be reunited with their biological parents.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent and becoming a foster home for emergency removals. Please contact Catherine Hendricks, ICWA Director, at (508) 477-0208 ext 144.

Language Community Night on Friday, May 31 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM

Join WLRP at the MWT Community & Govt. Center for Wôpanâak language games, stories, songs and prayer (4:30-5:30) followed by a potluck dinner (5:30-6:30). All of this is happening at the next Language Community Night on Friday, May 31.

For children and families enrolled & interested in Mukayuhsak Weekuw (The Children’s House) and the Numukayuhunônak (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) or Sânushq Toodie (tcoombs@wlrp.org).
Wampanoag Housing Lottery (continued)

Chystal Kornegay, undersecretary of Massachusetts Housing and Community Development, previously stated it was the first time the department partnered with the tribe. “We are pleased to be supporting this important project,” she said. “I want to congratulate the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe on their efforts to bring this development to fruition, including completing the construction of infrastructure critical to the project’s viability.”

Raymond James Tax Credit Funds is one of the leading sponsors of Low Income Housing Tax Credit Funds nationwide. Since the inception of the tax credit program in 1986, the organization has sponsored more than 100 funds, providing equity for more than 2,000 properties in 47 states, making them a leading provider of high-quality affordable housing developments throughout the nation.

Benjamin Shockey, Associate Director of Acquisitions with Raymond James, expressed appreciation for the partnership with the Mashpee’s on this project. “We appreciate the opportunity to work with the Tribe and we know how meaningful it is, we are glad to be in partnership.”

During the Honorary Ceremonies, Mr. Shockey had the opportunity to meet Tribal citizens and leadership, both spiritual and political. “It’s really meaningful, we are a part of many projects but very few have this kind of meaning,” he said.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Chairman Cedric Cromwell praised the dedication of the Tribal Housing staff, the Housing Commission, investment partners and entire Tribal Community for putting forward such hard work. “They are honoring our ancestors, homeland and maintaining our sovereignty,” he said.

“The day has arrived, we are a step closer to providing much-needed housing for our people in the heart of our ancestral homelands; this is an extremely exciting time for our Tribal Nation and a much needed boost,” adding, “The dream is now becoming a reality,” Cromwell said.

Prevention, Awareness and Wellness Celebration Continues in May

The Indian Child Welfare Department, in collaboration with the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Health Services Unit, the Department of Public Health, and tribal departments kicked off a month-long series of community focused events in April and continue through May 16. The series titled “A 2019 Prevention, Awareness and Wellness Celebration” includes several events with a shared theme of “Healthy Minds to Protect Our Children and Maintain Tribal Connections.”

Last month included a kickoff event and an Easter Egg Hunt. Additional events in May include the following: Awareness/Wellness Walk on Thursday, May 2, 2019; Tribal Gathering and Finale on Thursday, May 16, 2019.

David Weeden Seeks Reelection on Town Planning Board

The Mashpee town election is set for Tuesday, May 21 and incumbents are being challenged for seats on the board of selectman, planning board, school committee and the board of water commissioners. Tribal member David Weeden is seeking reelection on the Mashpee Planning Board, where he has been a consistent voice for conservation, is being challenged by John Phelan and Joseph Callahan. Please mark your calendar and vote on May 21.

Will Mashpee Adopt a New Town Seal?

A petition article at the May town meeting in Mashpee will request reconceptualization of the town seal, which is now a replica of the state seal depicting a Native American below a sword. ad is a “reminder of the genocide and history between the Commonwealth and the indigenous inhabitants.” If approved, the town’s historical commission would be tasked with a new seal design.

The selectman and the finance committee did not recommend the seal change petition, but it will be left to the voters in Mashpee to decide what is right.

The town meeting will be held on Monday, May 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Mashpee High School. You must be registered to vote in Mashpee to cast a vote in the town meeting.
The Mashpee Parsonage “Attaquin House”

By David Weeden

The town of Mashpee has a rich history dating back to 1870 when the town was first incorporated. There are many family names that have died off while many remain, all of which are extremely important to the story of Mashpee’s past. One of the names less familiar would be the Attaquin family; often associated with the community garden area, where the Hotel Attaquin once stood or when referring to Mashpee Pond’s popular Attaquin Park. This and other families were very prominent in the community and were critical to the success of the Town.

There’s an effort to restore one of the few remaining historic structures dating back to the 1800’s, the Mashpee Parsonage was built in 1849 and belonged to Ebenezer Attaquin the uncle of Solomon Attaquin the proprietor of the famous hotel. Ebenezer was very influential and served in various capacities of the Indian District which preceded the Town’s incorporation. Ebenezer was instrumental in successfully petitioning the Massachusetts General Legislature on March 7th 1849, lobbying for the reaffirmation of the Tribal members use of the Old Indian Meeting House, he was the first signatory to the petition. Ebenezer also served as deacon for the newly established Mashpee Baptist church, which may be why he donated his homestead to the Mashpee Baptist Parish.

The structure first served as homestead, then parsonage to visiting ministers, struggling families also rented the building, later becoming the first Tribal Headquarters for the newly established Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Inc.; where Departments delivered program services to Tribal members until the early 1990’s. Amelia Bingham sought Massachusetts Historical Commission’s help to protect the property in 1973. In 2007 the town’s Historical Commission provided a local designation as a “Historic Property” and contributing factor to the larger “Historic District”, therefore affording certain preservation considerations and protections.

The “Parsonage” is an important structure and once restored it will complement Mashpee’s Historic District and provide an additional point of interest as a tourist attraction and focal point the structure will help convey and inform visitors of the unique history only to be found in Mashpee.

Mashpee Residents Could Save Parsonage at Town Meeting

At the May town meeting in Mashpee residents will be voting on a special warrant that will provide much needed funding to restore the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s historic parsonage. The town meeting will be held on Monday, May 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Mashpee High School. You must be registered to vote in Mashpee to cast a vote in the town meeting.

The special warrant is comprised almost entirely of Community Preservation Committee requests, including $320,000 to fund the restoration of the Quashnet River; $240,510 to create a “cold water fishery” in the Upper Childs River and to restore the abandoned Garner and Farley cranberry bogs to wetlands along the river; $44,996 to fund the Mashpee Community Garden Reconstruction project; $123,500 to make improvements to Attaquin Park; and $400,000 to restore the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s parsonage.

Dine to Support Powwow at Mashpee 99

Eat at the 99 Restaurant on Wednesday May 15, 29 and June 12 between 5 PM and 9 PM to support the Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow Committee. All you have to do is show the flyer and 15% of your bill will directly support the 2019 Powwow. Dine for a cause at the 99 and please spread the word.
Building Pathways Wraps Up College Visits with Tours of New Mexico Schools

Over April Vacation the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department Career Pathways for Tribal Youth wrapped up the series of college tours with a visit to several schools in the New Mexico region. The complete program which ran from February through April took interested high school students and their parents to schools across New England, Colorado and New Mexico.

The final trip over April Vacation included the Native Colleges Fort Lewis in Durango, Colorado; the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico; the University of New Mexico; and the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In addition to college tours they also spent two days exploring the natural and cultural history of the area with Shawn Spruce from First Nations Development Institute.

Other colleges visited during the program included Tufts University and Stonehill College.

The college tours were funded in part by the NYCP Building Pathways for Tribal Youth Program and grant funding. For more information about the program, please contact John Hanlon at 508-237-0041, john.hanlon@mwtribe-nsn.gov or Cameron Greendeer at 508-477-0208, Cameron.greendeer@mwtribe-nsn.gov in the Education Department.

Community Garden Planting Day on May 30

Please join the Garden Club on Thursday, May 30 at 1:00 PM in front of the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit (located behind the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center) for their annual planting. All of the necessary plants, seeds and equipment will be available.

The raised garden beds were installed last year as part of a comprehensive program to improve tribal members access to healthy living and natural remedies. For more information, please call Lesley McKeen at (508) 539-6917.

Four-Week Diabetes Management Program

Mashpee Indian Health Services will be offering a four-week diabetes program. The diabetes program will begin on Thursday, June 6 (program held each Thursday) at 1:30 p.m. at the MSU Administration Building located directly behind the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. Classes will run June 6 through June 27.

The four-week program will provide education, support and skills to effectively achieve diabetes control. 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.

The classes will be led by HIS Dietitian, Health Technician and a Dental Hygienist.

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

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

The Building Pathways for Tribal Youth in partnership with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department are pleased announce they will be hosting a 3 on 3 basketball tournament on Friday, May 17. The tournament will be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center from 2:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

In addition to this year’s tournament, Native Entrepreneur, Adrian Nabors of REZBALL Affiliate will be in attendance. Adrian Nabors will be providing students a short seminar on his own Business pathway. Each tournament will have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places and prizes provided by REZBALL Affiliate. REZBALL Affiliate will also have a booth and items for sale. For more information about REZBALL Affiliate clothing, check them out on Facebook or Instagram.

This event will consists of two separate tournaments, High School and Adult 18+ and 4 person max. The Adult Tournament will have an entry fee or $10 per person. There is a limited number of teams that will be accepted and teams are encouraged to sign-up early by contacting Cameron Greendeer at (508) 477-0208 ext. 178.
Women’s Process Group To Meet Fridays at 11 AM
May 1, 2019
The Women’s Process Group “the Authentic Connection” will provide a space for Tribal Matriarchs to meet, share, explore and support each other through a wide range of issues such as life stressors, life changes, relationships, coping and more. The group will have its first meeting on Friday, May 10 at 11:00 a.m. at the Health Service Unit.
The group will continue to meet every Friday at 11:00 a.m. for 8 weeks and is limited to 10 participants (the group will consist of the same participants from start to end).
The Authentic Connection group will offer a safe and supportive environment to explore issues and experiment with new ways of thinking about ourselves and relating to others.
The Benefits of the working group include:
- Increased connection & giving/receiving support
- Improve relationship with others
- Improve and practice communication skills
- Gain insight into self and others
- Finding your voice
- Provide a sounding board
- Reduce isolation
For more information, please contact Nadine Phillips at 508-539-6965.

Museum Opens for 2019 Season and Announces New Rates
The Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum opened for the 2019 season on April 1. The Museum is open 3 days per week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. In addition to new hours of operation, the Museum also announced new rates for admission. Adults are $8, children (6-18) are $5, seniors are $7 and the group rate for 3 or more people is $6 per person.
For more information about the Museum events or scheduling a visit, please call (508) 477-9339. You can also stay up to date by following the Museum on Facebook.

Xavier and Junie Hendricks Make the Grade at Carver High School
Xavier Hendricks (left) and Junie Hendricks (right) both made high honor roll for the third term at Carver High School. They are the sons of Jody Santagate and Lawrence Hendricks of Wareham. Brothers of Mason Hendricks and the great grandsons of Francis Cash Hendricks. Congratulations Xavier and Junie.