

Featured Programs

Individual
Support Services

IHS Business
Office

Solid Waste
Program

Records
Management

Kawennì:ios



Casino Resort Grand Opening



Project Sticker Shock Targets Underage Drinking

Local Youth Kick off Alcohol Awareness Month by Educating Consumers

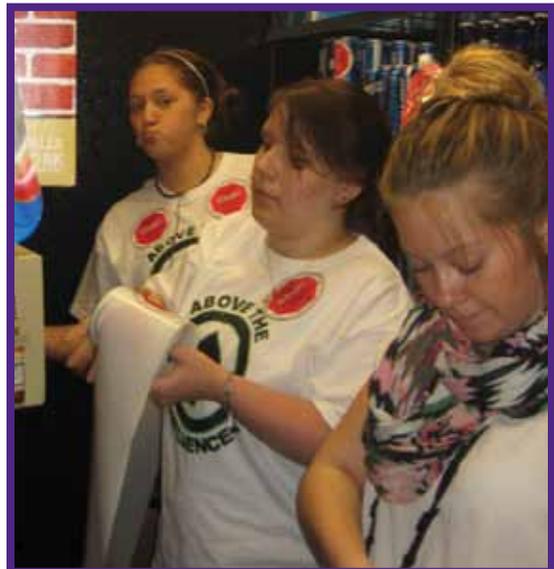
With prom season and graduation upon us, youth leaders and the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services Alcohol / Chemical Dependency Prevention (A/CDP) Program are working together to create a safer, healthier lifestyle by educating the community of underage drinking laws.

In a recent survey, alcohol has been identified as the number one drug of choice of youth. Local community youth and the A/CDP Program joined forces in “Project Sticker Shock,” a youth initiative to educate the public and change attitudes about providing alcohol to minors.

Stickers warning about the penalties for furnishing alcohol to minors are placed on alcoholic products. The sticker spells out a strong reminder “IT IS ILLEGAL TO PROVIDE ALCOHOL FOR ANYONE UNDER 21!” Underage drinking is a community concern and the most effective way to address it is through community involvement and participation.

Youth leaders and the A/CDP Program thank Carrie Benedict of the SRMT Compliance Department for her assistance and the following community businesses for their participation in this important youth initiative: CT Convenience Store, Truck Stop #9, the Akwesasne Mini Mart, D & B Smokes, both Twin Leaf Express stores, Collette’s One Stop, Big Boys Gas, Borderline and the Speedway Convenience Store. ♦

By Melerena Back, CPS



Kawennì:ios “Good Words” is published monthly by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Public Information Office, 412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655 (518) 358-2272 public.information@srmt-nsn.gov www.srmt-nsn.gov

David Trout Staddon, Editor
Aimée Benedict-Debo, Publications Manager
Alyson Cole, Production Assistant

Good Words of Welcome



Shé:kon Serwakwe:kon,

June is here; our youth have finished their spring college semester and our younger students are soon to finish their school year. High school graduation is right around the corner. I hope that all of our graduates enjoy the moment, be safe, have fun, act responsibly and look forward to the journey that is ahead. Many of our college students will be returning to their internships at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino. This is a great program employing our college students in “real-world” positions. Some are placed in their field of study; others are placed in areas giving them exposure to multiple departments.

We also have many community members in trainee positions, giving them opportunities in different departments, with a goal of moving up through the organization into management. Also, we were recently informed that our Native employment percentage at AMC/MBP is now at 41 percent, the highest Native employment percentage for the property ever! This is truly awesome news. If you are seeking employment, or know someone who is, please refer them to Human Resources or Education/Recruitment so we can continue to employ Mohawks and continue to increase our Native employment percentage.

The Casino expansion project recently finished, on time and on budget. Everyone involved can pat themselves on the back for that accomplishment. Our bingo operations look great, our casino expansion looks awesome and our hotel is worthy of five stars. As with each of my openings, here is my trip report:

I attended the 2013 Reservation Economic Summit (RES) March 11-14 in Las Vegas, an annual Economic Development Summit for Indian Country. There was a meeting regarding Tribal Strategic Planning, workshops were attended on taxation and alternative fees in Indian Country and contacts were made for benefits consulting.

I attended the 2013 National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) annual conference March 24-27 in Phoenix. This is where Indian Gaming country gathers for policy updates, networking and workshops. I attended the 1.5 day NIGA member meeting, where Ernie Stevens, Jr. was re-elected Chairman of NIGA. I attended workshops regarding Native employment.

I attended first State-Native American Relations Summit in Albany on Monday, April 15. NY State Senator George Maziarz convened this summit “with a focus on efforts to build a new era of respect and economic partnership in NY State.” This was a great opportunity for all tribes who attended (SRMT, Seneca, Cayuga and Unkechaug) to update NY Senators how each tribe is growing and benefitting their local economies. We were all able to hear what each other is doing. I had breakfast with the Seneca representatives and they were scheduled to attend our casino/bingo/hotel grand opening. More summits are being planned on different issues: education, veteran’s issues, law enforcement and tribal courts.

I congratulate our Coalition for Community Empowerment for everything they do for youth and family drug prevention. Through their efforts, our youth are being educated, recognized and praised at drug-free events aimed at prevention. *Niawen:kówa* to all!

Finally, our Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club will hold their annual golf tournament fundraiser on Saturday September 7, 2013 at Cedar View Golf Course. Please come out and support the club and our youth in their largest annual fundraiser.

Sub-Chief Michael Connors

On the Cover: Casino and Tribal Officials Cut Ribbon to Officially Open Casino Expansion.

Individual Support Services (ISS)

Family & Community Services Division Program Feature

By Heather Durant, Benefit Services Manager

The Individual Support Services Program operates under the Family and Community Services Division. To qualify for this program, individuals be eligible for services under Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

Individual Support Services creates more independent housing opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities. This is done through integrated housing options, housing related subsidies, case management and other services.

Case management services are provided to each individual with their agreement. The Benefit Services Manager's duties include: outreach, eligibility, determinations, identification, of service providers, individual choice, arranging assessments and implementing support plans. Other duties include assistance in housing negotiations, help in establishing a household, resource management, technical assistance to landlords and access to generic community supports and services (i.e., food stamps and heating assistance).

The Benefit Services Manager assists the participants develop an individual support service plan which addresses the participant's needs in the following areas: rent, utilities/telephone, insurance, transportation, food, clothing, leisure/recreation, case management, health, staffing, employment/education, savings and others in the plan. The agency assures that the health, environmental and physical needs of the individual are met in a safe and decent manner, that appropriate medications to the housing unit are provided as necessary and that the individual has a support network to meet his/her needs for independent living.

Contracts are developed to provide individual support services, based upon support service plans and budgets for specific individuals. Additional agreements

are incorporated, outlining the budget, sources of funds, type and intensity of supports and services and the individual participant's responsibilities. These agreements are signed by the individuals and agency forming a written record of the service plan. The participants also agree to allow visits to his/her home to maintain that reasonable standards of health, safety and well-being.

The ISS Program serves people with developmental disabilities ready to leave certified community residences, living at home with parents and siblings, or who are homeless. This program provides financial support to these individuals who can live independently or with limited staff support.

The program provides financial subsidy to assist in locating, renting, or buying individualized living arrangements that are alternatives to traditional group living. Residential options include home sharing, independent living, HUD rental subsidy programs and initiatives.

Program individuals may have limited financial resources with public assistance, food stamps, and/or SSI as their major sources of income. Our ISS contract covers monthly rent, security deposits and household furnishing. Our monthly subsidy is entitled to supplement each person's resources.

The ISS Program is unique as we assist single mothers and their small children. The program provides services to seven individuals. Our efforts continue with one individual working on owning his own home through the USDA Section 502 Single Family Housing Direct Loan. This has been a six-year project, difficult at times and time-consuming with many roadblocks along the way. However, the outcome has opened the door for many. For the first time ever an individual with a developmental disability will own his own home through a USDA loan in Akwesasne! For more program information or questions, please call 518-358-9481. ♦

Intensive Preventive Program

Social Services Division Program Feature

By Jean Square, Case Supervisor

Our mission is to provide community and home-based services to families of Akwesasne, to meet individual needs, of individual families. The program works from the foundation that “all families have their own strengths and values,” that can be built on to overcome any obstacles. Innovative aspects of our program include: wrap-around model, strength-based, traditional and non-traditional supports, cultural competence, staff availability and flex hours to meet the needs of families.

The IPP, under the Division of Social Services, provides services and assistance to families and youth. All referrals are through the Division of Social Services Preventive and Protective Units who may be contacted at 518-358-4516. No referrals needed for community open activities – Monday Night Parenting, Talking Circle and Moon Ceremony.

IPP has many components of services offered to youth, parents and the community. Youth Advocates provide services to teens and social supports through activities that build on strengths and address the individual needs identified in the families’ service plan.

- Activities – individual and group
- Craft night, life skills, community events and recreation.
- Goal setting, introduction to new activities and youth interests
- Education, psychological/social and medical needs
- Transportation - activities, appointments and referrals
- Traditional and cultural activities

Parent advocates support, inform, educate and encourage parents to seek alternatives and adopt a plan of action, based on individual needs of the family. These include:

- Family visiting and supervised visits
- Parenting – group and individual
- Transports
- Court support
- Education and job support
- Life skills
- Basic needs – referral and advocacy for resources:

housing, financial, medical, food, heating and other needs as identified.

- Group activities offered to our families with children under 12 weekly and summer programming.

- Family activities, for parents and children together offered individual/group according to need.



Happy & Steve, Youth Advocates

IPP Services are open to all community members. These include: Monday Night Parenting: Monday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., September to June. IPP hosts many topics and areas of interest for parents, such as Positive Indian Parenting, Active Parenting, 1,2,3, Magic, along with many speakers and specialized topics on nutrition, healthy living, specific behavior and mental health issues. Every session – certificates are awarded to participants, also snacks, childcare and transportation are provided as needed.

Women’s Talking Circle: Wednesday nights 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All women from the community invited to attend. This is a place where women share their strength, experience, hope and offer support to one another. ◇

Higher Education

Program Feature

By Rod Cook, Higher Education

Congratulations, your student has been accepted to college, now what.

I am getting all this stuff and what does it mean? Why do I need loans? What is Pell? What is TAP? Where do I get a certificate of residency for the community college that I am attending?

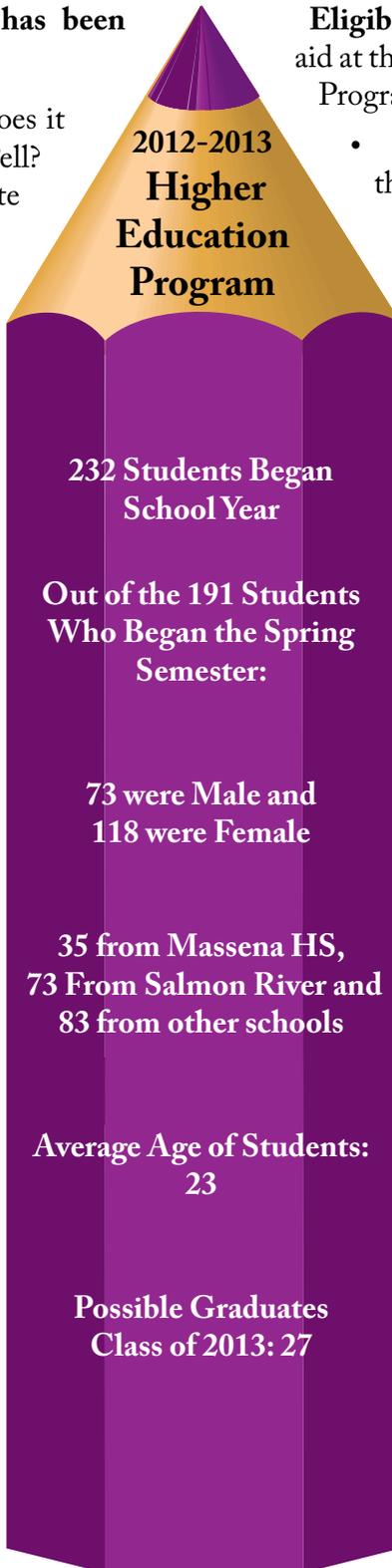
Did you apply to more than one school? Let the schools that you will not be attending know; someone else who may really want to attend that school has been wait-listed. Get your deposits in, this holds your place as an accepted student and it does get applied to your overall bill.

Please make sure all correspondence with the school of choice has been completed. Something that needed to be completed a while ago did not get done. This could create problems when you begin classes, such as losing your classes and then you have to register all over again, possibly losing classes.

Please make sure the FAFSA and TAP applications are completed.

Deadlines. It is that time of the year; July 15 is the deadline for a lot of financial aid applications, so please do NOT wait until then. I also have other applications here, New York State Indian Aid and Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education.

Is your FAFSA and TAP done? If no, then, why not?



Eligibility. To apply for assistance for financial aid at the Saint Regis Mohawk Higher Education Program:

- You need to be an enrolled member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- You need to be a matriculated, full-time student
- You need to have a completed application
- You need to be accepted to a college or university
- Submitted by the deadline

Thinking about college. If you are thinking about the possibility of going to college in the fall, the time to do it is now. Waiting until July or August will be too late. Why? Remember the date July 15?

The deadlines will have come and gone for much of the supplemental aid that has been mentioned and your options will be few: loans, Pell and TAP.

If you have questions, give a call or stop by between 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or by appointment and I will answer them for you or get you an answer.

Contact information:

Roderick Cook,

Higher Education Program

412 State Route 37

Akwesasne, NY 13655

Phone: 518-358-2272 x 247

Fax: 518-358-3203

Email: rcook@srmt-nsn.gov. ◇

Business Office

Health Services Program Feature

By Lori Thompson, Business Office Manager

The Business Office is comprised of five departments: medical records, contract health services, billing office, patient registration and referrals.

The Medical Records Department staff has the responsibility of ensuring that the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is followed. This law sets rules about who can look at and receive your health information. It also gives you rights

over your health plan information and when it can be shared. It also requires your doctors, pharmacists and other health care providers and your health plan to explain your rights and how your health information can be used or shared.

The Referral Department will be moving into the medical records area within the next month. There will be signs instructing you where you can pick up your referral, but the phone extensions will remain the same. Just as a reminder, please call the Referral Office with your follow-up appointments, reporting any emergency room visit and be sure to come in and pick up your referral prior to your visit.

Patient registration has a new sign-in process. All patients who have an appointment are required to sign in on the patient registration log sheet for the day and then have a seat in the waiting room. Sarah, the Patient Registration Clerk will call your name for the interview process; this will help maintain your privacy and confidentiality while you are being interviewed. This new process should stop the patients from lining up outside her office and hearing what is being said. Help us protect your privacy by following the new sign-in process.

The Contract Health Services Department processes all claims/bills submitted by outside medical providers for your approved referrals. Our Billing Department bills for all billable services you receive at our clinic and posts the revenue from these visits. The revenue generated from your billable visits helps to pay for your referrals when the CHS budget is exhausted. ◇



Juanita Displays the New Medical Record Storage



Sarah Tillman at Patient Registration



Terry Thompson, Contract Health

Tribal Solid Waste Program : Things You Should Know

Environment Division Program Feature

By Les Benedict, Assistant Director

You may have noticed or heard about some changes with the Tribe's Solid Waste Program including personnel and services. These changes have been brought about in order to improve service delivery, broaden the types or services available while working toward a more sustainable operation.

Staffing changes: Russell Phillips is the Operations Supervisor.

His responsibility is the health and safety of his staff, ensuring resources are available for them to perform including vehicles, equipment and grounds are maintained and serviced on scheduled intervals.

Lawrence (Larry) Thompson is the Recycling Coordinator. His responsibility is to provide direct assistance to community members, tribal offices and businesses and enterprises to improve recycling efforts.

His goal is to increase community wide recycling. Riccardo Najar is the Refuse Route Driver. His job is to operate a truck to collect and transport solid waste and recyclables to the transfer station. Teio Seymour and Joel Herne are the Scale House Attendants at the Transfer Station to greet you and direct you to the proper locations for disposal of your materials. They will weigh you in and out, provide you with a receipt and an amount to pay for the services. The attendants will also be inspecting loads to make sure they do not contain noxious materials, recyclables or E-waste that can be otherwise properly disposed of. Some of the services are free to help you recycle properly,

just ask to see the new rate schedule for 2013 and don't forget to ask the knowledgeable staff at the Transfer Station. Teres Seymour is the Billing Clerk and she is at the Environment Office. She is responsible for receiving payments and preparing invoices for charge customers.

The Tribe recently reached an agreement with the Franklin County Solid Waste Authority to receive materials from the Tribe's transfer station. This agreement greatly reduced disposal costs making the operation more cost-effective. It also reduced the wear and tear on the compaction trailer and the costs to maintain it.



The 'Real' Kwis & Tiio

You may have noticed that the "Blue Bags" have changed color. The reason for this is because the tribe has contracted the collection of the Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)

system that became known as the "Blue Bag" program. The Solid Waste Program wants the system to be called PAYT because bag color could change again. The blue colored bags were converted to yellow in order for the hauler to identify the proper bags to collect. The Tribe pays for each bag and then resells them. Each bag has a value of the service that is provided. Therefore, no more blue colored bags or any other colored bags will be collected at this point. If it isn't yellow it won't be picked up. If you are a customer of the service please have your bags by curbside by 7:00 am. If you miss the collection because you put the bags out too late the

Solid Waste Program will not return to pick them up, they will have to be put out the next week.

If you still have blue-colored bags you can still trade them in for the yellow-colored bags. The bag size will change shortly. A mistake was made at the supplier and instead of 30-gallon bags they are 40 gallons. This mistake is in the customer's favor. Once the proper size bag becomes available they will be sold - please don't think that service was down-graded - there was only a temporary up-grade. You can purchase bags at the Environment Office, the Transfer Station, Wild Bills, the Speedway Convenience and the Tribe's Accounting Office. The cost is \$20 for a pack of 5. The Solid Waste Program will be identifying other outlets for the bags.

The PAYT system provides your family with convenience, cost savings and peace of mind knowing that your household waste is collected each week, providing a clean healthy environment in which to live. If you haven't tried the service yet stop in to find out more about it.

New rates are in effect for 2013. Municipal Solid Waste and Bulky Rates have been harmonized, they are both \$110/ton, E-waste and metal disposals are free. Freon-containing equipment disposal (refrigerators, air conditioners) dropped from \$33 to just \$10. The Solid Waste Program is implementing a "drag out fee" that

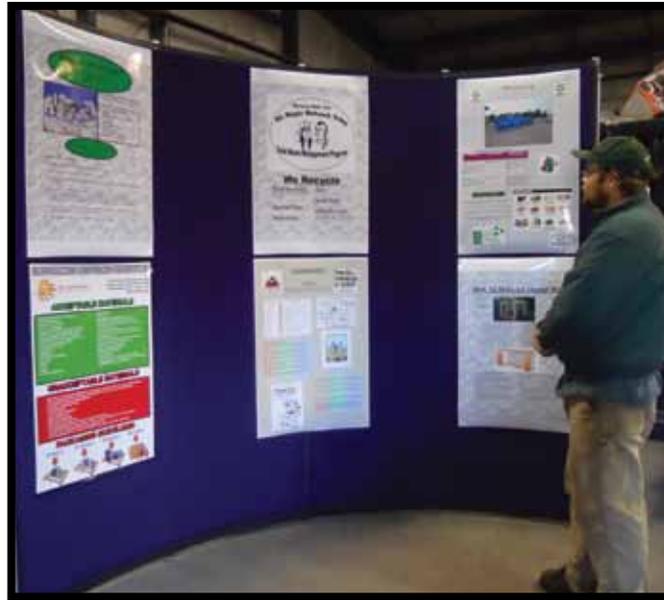
is \$25 per item. This fee is if you dispose of E-waste, household hazardous waste, recyclables and other noxious materials in the waste bins and they have to be removed. Also, you must tarp your loads coming into the transfer station - *Cover Your Load and Cover Yourself*. If the load isn't covered and secure, tarped, you will be charged \$25. The return check fee is \$45 plus collection costs - don't bounce a check.

Should you need customized disposal services the Solid Waste Program provides waste bins and a trailers for a nominal delivery fee of \$60 plus disposal cost by weight. This is a low cost and convenient way to dispose of items from construction, spring cleaning or other large projects. This requires scheduling and a signed service agreement.

The Solid Waste Program is looking ahead and is considering expanding hours at the Transfer Station to serve you better. It is also examining other programs and services to offer. There are customer feedback surveys at the transfer station where you can tell us about your service, what you liked, didn't like and to offer suggestions to serve you

better. Please let us know about your needs and how we can serve you better.

The phone number at the Transfer Station is (518) 358-4632 and the Environment Office is (518) 358-5937. ◇



Recycling Display at Solid Waste Day



Larry Thompson and Teio Seymour Hard at Work

Securing Grant Funding

Grant Development Program Feature

By Lornie Swamp, Grant Development Specialist

As the renowned Economist/Ecologist Barry Commoner stated, "There's no such thing as a free lunch." So goes this adage in the world of grant making. The perception free money is out there to support everything from mortgages to car payments to buying a fishing boat is simply untrue. In the same vein, program grants supporting vital community services aren't given free reign over funding uses either and must adhere to the work plan, reporting requirements, budget and other funding agency rules. Organizations like the tribe have the capacity to manage federal grant programs and can use the support funding to address issues and problem areas found in many tribal communities. Grant funding is intended to initiate change; change in behaviors, change in outcomes and change in knowledge.

The ability to plan effectively can be the difference in a receiving a grant award. Successful grant applications demonstrate a clear vision on what is to be accomplished, when it will be completed and who is responsible for completing the work. Laying the groundwork in developing a long-range work-plan, budget and accompanying documentation requires attention to detail and a vision towards an overarching goal. Planning should begin six to 24 months ahead of the grant writing process. Typically, the same federal grant programs remain available from year to year, so tribal programs can use the previous year's grant announcement as

guidance to complete a current funding opportunity before it's released. When the grant announcement is made, the window to apply is usually between four to six weeks. Starting an application at this stage, program staff position themselves, in addition to their regular workload, to completing a myriad of application components including the project narrative, budget and a narrative, memorandum of understanding, tribal council resolution, job descriptions and all required federal forms. The importance of planning in the grant writing process cannot be overstated. Attempting to navigate through a complex application process can be daunting and stressful. Securing funding is challenging. The best offense is preparation and planning.

In the last three years the tribe's Grant Development Office has assisted with and successfully processed and submitted 97 new and continuation grant applications totaling \$28 million on behalf of the tribal programs. In 2012, tribal programs were awarded project grants to support the Three Sisters program, Early Childhood Development, Healthy Heart program, Wetlands Protection, LIHEAP, Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness and Emerald

Ash Borer Surveillance Outreach. Although just a partial list of projects awarded federal funding, the list demonstrates the solid level of commitment and obligation tribal programs maintain in meeting the needs of the Akwesasne community. ♦

116 Tribal Programs Receive Grants

From:

*U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Interior
U.S. Department of Labor
National Archives Record Mgmt. Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
Institute of Museum and Library Services
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services
National Science Foundation
Department of Energy
National Endowment for Humanities
Administration on Aging
U.S. Department of Justice
Department of Transportation
Private Funding
New York State*

Casino Resort Celebrates Grand Opening

By David Staddon, Public Information Director

Thursday May 9, 2013 saw the grand opening of the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino's additions of the resort and spa. The new hotel features 150 rooms, swimming pool, spa and ample conference space. The event was kicked off at 6:00 p.m. with a ribbon-cutting and speeches by Tribal Chiefs Randy Hart, Ron LaFrance and Paul Thompson. Casino General Manager Patrick Bassney and Assistant General Manager Emily Lauzon also provided words of welcome and recognition of long-time casino staff members. John Stewart, President of Encompass Develop, Design and Construct also spoke and presented tribal council with a plaque and announced the establishment of a \$25,000 scholarship fund for Mohawk college students.

The speeches were finished up by Paula L. Hart, Director of Indian Gaming - Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior. After the words of welcome by all the speakers, casino and tribal officials conducted the

official ribbon-cutting to mark the grand opening of the casino's new facilities.



Standing Arrow Drum Group Opened and Closed the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with Songs



Stunning Ice Sculptures Display the New Casino Resort Logo

The Standing Arrow drum group did an excellent job of opening the event with traditional drumming and singing. They also closed it with another song, which set the mood for the rest of the evening. Immediately following the ribbon-cutting, tribal officials and casino officials made themselves available for interviews with the print, radio and television reporters who attended.

After the opening ceremonies, invited guests went to the casino's ballroom to enjoy fabulous food, music and dancing. Event planners included a professional photographer for guests, a tent for cigar aficionados and tours of the facility. The reception was attended by tribal division directors, elected officials, chamber of

commerce representatives, casino management staff, casino suppliers, architects, community services officials and local business owners. ♦

Monthly Tribal Meeting

Onerahtokó:wa/May 11, 2013
Chaired by Chief Ron LaFrance

Agenda

1. Introductions:
 - Welcome
 - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
2. Vendor Permit
 - Elliott Lazore
3. Water System Update Presentation
 - Shawn Martin/Ernie Thompson
4. Broadband Quarterly Update
 - Jason Hall
5. Broadband Quarterly Update
 - Jason Hall
6. New Business
 - Announcement of TGF 2013 Budget Community Presentation May 28 @ 5:00 pm in Lobby of SRMT
7. Reading of Action Items
8. Adjournment

Action Items from April Meeting

1. Possible Broadband internet providers present to the community what services their company will offer.
2. Publish the Broadband project timeline
3. Look into the registration fee that Franklin County charges when renewing vehicle registration.
4. Community requesting minutes from February, March and April meetings held regarding changes made to the Election ordinance. (Forwarded this request to Betty Roundpoint, member of the Election Board.)

Follow-up on Action Items from April Meeting

1. To report on the status of the generator at next month's meeting
Follow-up: A report has been submitted
2. To look into the policies restricting employees with businesses who would like to offer services to the Tribal Programs.
Follow-up: The Executive Director reviewed the policies and will be working with the CFO to recommend amendments
3. To follow up with the heating issue at the new location of the Bingo Palace.
Follow-up: A report has been submitted
4. To look into developing a landlord/tenant policy
Follow-up: The Legal Department will follow up
◇

Calendar

Obiari:ha / June 2013

1 - Election & Referendum - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Community Building lobby

8 - Monthly Tribal Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building lobby

11 - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's office

Tuesdays - Tribal Tribal Council Work Session - 9:00 a.m. - Tribal Council Executive Boardroom

New Faces

Colby A. Bradford

CAD Technician

Broadband

Paul Conto

Youth Worker

Akwesasne Group Home

Justine George

Teacher Aide

Early Childhood Development

SuEllen Jacobs

Dispatcher

Tribal Police

Lilyann M. Laffin

Teacher Aide

Early Childhood Development

Carrie A. Smoke

Teacher Aide

Early Childhood Development

Donations

Funerals - \$4,000

Fundraising Efforts - \$1,850

Sports - \$3,735

Annuals - \$7,000

Jobs

Summer Positions - *WLA*

Cook Aide - *Early Childhood Development*

Teacher - *Early Childhood Development*

All current positions with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe are posted on the Tribe's website at :

www.srmt-nsn.gov.

Positions with our gaming operations are posted on the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino's website at:

www.mohawkcasino.com.

Celebrating our Community's Foster Parents

By Mallory Godreau, Home Finder Caseworker

May was Foster Parent Month, but we should always celebrate the wonderful foster parents in our community! The Foster Care and Prevention program works with community members to ensure that the children in Akwesasne and surrounding areas are placed in appropriate homes that can provide a wholesome experience for the children. This includes cultural traditions, as well as emotional, educational, and developmental support.

We understand that being a foster parent comes with its challenges and because of this, we offer support such as trainings, informational sessions, conferences, a foster parent support group, an on-call caseworker who is available after office hours and support from the Social Services team. Being a foster parent takes a lot of dedication and hard work, but our foster parents seem to think it is worth the time and effort.

Terrie Terrance, a foster parent for about six years says she provides foster care because she can see the hurt in some of these children. She believes all children should be treated with dignity and she knows she can be their protector. Terrie believes that it is important for this community to foster children because the children of Akwesasne need to have a strong cultural foundation so they

can understand who they are and be proud. The best part of becoming a foster parent for Terrie is watching the child become reunited with their birth families and knowing she was there when the birth family couldn't be. Terrie continues to provide foster care because she recognizes it that there is a huge need for foster care, not just in this community, but everywhere.



Sequoia and Sayla Fuller Enjoy the BBQ

Annette Swamp has been a foster parent for ten years and says she does it because she knows she can provide love and support for children and no matter how long or short the stay is, she will have made a difference in that child's life. Annette says she can't imagine not being a foster parent and states, "This is what I was meant to do."

child placement heart family happiness
 court case worker plan
Foster care
 support healing trauma
 home hope loved safe
 heart

There are so many other wonderful foster parents in the community. To honor and celebrate them, we held a free barbeque for our foster parents and children in the community. The event also welcomed those who were interested in our Foster Care Program and we had our caseworkers standing by the answer questions from prospective foster parents. If you missed the event, don't worry, there will be more to come! If you have any questions about our program please call us at (518) 358- 4516. ◇

Archives/Records Management

Tribal Historic Preservation Program Feature

By Lillian Benedict Barton, Records Officer

You may not have noticed us however; the records department is here and found in the basement of the tribe, in the back by the storage rooms. Things are really hopping in the archives and records office, and no, I do not mean frogs. My part-time help and I are hopping around getting a lot of work done. We accomplished indexing over 3,200 TCRs, Acts and Ordinances into our electronic records management database On Base[®], and scanned and indexed 3,169 education files. Other departments like Animal Control, Historic Preservation and Tribal Courts are also taking advantage of our electronic document management system. Grants and Contracts uses it for their contract log, Public Information is using it to store media clips and newsletters. My department is also in the midst of storing copies of obituaries, *Ronatohétston*, policies, press releases, reports and meeting minutes. The database is accessible to all departments in the main building of the tribe and is a useful tool for all employees in searching thousands of records. It eliminates hours of searching file cabinets and binders and even hard drives for documents. I have worked with several departments over the past year learning about their needs, types of documents in their offices and most

importantly how they would like to utilize On Base[®] in their office. Currently I am either working with or will soon be working with Tribal Clerk, the Health Services Billing Department, Accounting, Emergency Planning, Human Resources and the Social Services Division. Eventually this database will be available to all departments under the tribe.

Just recently, we finished scanning and inventorying 500 blueprints and maps. Most of these belong to our Planning and Infrastructure Department and are now easily accessible to them, and eventually through On Base[®]. Although our goal is to become paperless, we still must store some records; in 2012, we shelved over 100 boxes.

In October 2012, Tribal Council approved the “Open Records” policy and appointed me as the Open Records Officer. You will find this policy on the tribe’s website.

My duties also include processing and describing archival collections. Most recently “land claims.” The process is very time-consuming, as each document must be evaluated and recorded. Our work is an ongoing process in the records department, but we do welcome visitors with prior notice. Please contact me at the tribe. *Niawen:kówa* ♦



Lillian and Alyson Enter Data into the Electronic Document Management System

Climate Change Adaptation Workshop

By Julia Jacobs, Environment Outreach Coordinator



The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environment Division, is hosting a Climate Change Adaptation Workshop the week of July 8-11, 2013 at the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club. The workshop is designed for youth ages 12-25, but invites anyone over the age of 12. Students from other Native Tribes/Nations are welcome to attend.

The workshop will focus on subject areas such as identifying issues related to impacts from climate change that will affect our nations. Some activities may include canning, making your own plantain salve and gardening. Register now by contacting Angela Benedict or Julia Jacobs at the Saint Regis Mohawk Environment Division at 518-358-5937. ◇



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