



Tribal Newsletter December 2020

Impeachment Proceedings

It greatly saddens me that the Council have continued to refuse to meet or work with the tribal office. Additionally, Council has continued to engage Marsha Harlan, Wilson Pipestem and Mr. Charles Tripp (none of them are Monacans) in driving up legal costs (which are now significant, around \$80,000). This is also a blatant attempt to gain gambling rights for the Cherokee in our traditional tribal lands and to gain control of the financial resources of the tribe. Please note, no legal work completed by Ms. Harlan or Mr. Pipestem have been for the benefit of the tribe.

Mr. Pipestem lobbied with the federal government against the Monacan people in gaining federal recognition. His actions against us put back the tribe for years and years, and now the Council personally hired him (knowing his previous actions against the tribe) to cause more destruction to the tribe. We could have had healthcare, housing, education, home healthcare for elders and other benefits and programs for the Monacan people years ago if it wasn't for Mr. Pipestem.

The Council are holding illegitimate impeachment proceedings which have been put together by Ms. Harlan and Mr. Pipestem to be held on December 16, 2020. The accusations are not true and have no merit and is a waste of money, time and resources. Council members are already saying that they are going to find me guilty of false charges, even before the hearing. I have reviewed the evidence and it is all lies.

The Council are claiming that the office has spent funds against the constitution. This is again another lie. The power of the tribe is with the people and with the federal government, both of whom gave me the authority to deliver benefits to the Monacan people.

The office has worked hard in trying to work with Council, they are given detailed weekly reports and monthly financial statements. We invite them to meet with the office regularly, however, they continue to refuse to do so. This behavior from Council does not help in making progress in delivering benefits for the Monacan people.

Introduction

On a more positive note, we hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to Christmas.

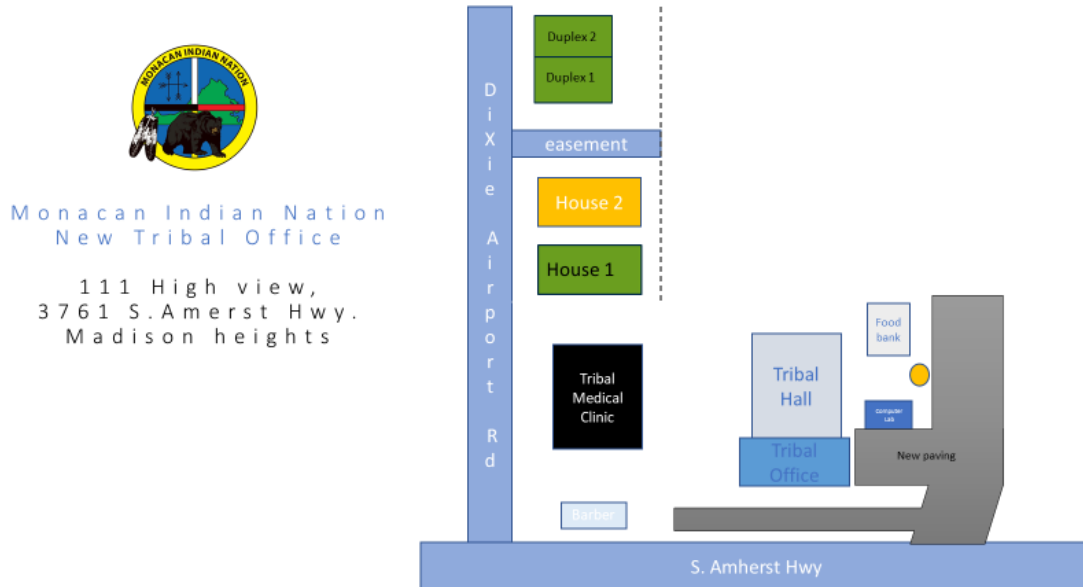
Shelley Livoti has joined the office team as the new Administrative Assistant and will be replacing Kaleigh, who is now managing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Department. We did originally offer the position to a Monacan, however, that person decided to pursue other opportunities.

The Monacan Indian Nation is undergoing a lot of positive changes and expanding services for the people. We will be moving our tribal office from its current location in Amherst to the New Tribal Center office at 111 Highview Drive, Madison Heights, Virginia in December 2020. There will be additional services and programs offered to the Monacan people next year. The office will be closed from December 21, 2020, until January 4, 2021, to enable the move of the office.

The Tribal Office continues to work closely with Indian Health Services (I.H.S.) and the White House to arrange access to the Monacan people to the F.D.A. approved COVID-19 vaccines. We will be letting the Monacan people know as soon as the vaccine is available and how they will be distributed. We have successfully negotiated with the federal government early access and a greater prorated amount of vaccine doses of both the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for the Monacan people.

Please continue to practice social distancing, use face masks, regularly use hand sanitizer and consider getting vaccinated against COVID-19 when available. If you do not have face masks or hand sanitizer, please contact the office or pick them up from the Food Bank

111 Highview Drive (New Tribal Office)




Monacan Indian Nation
New Tribal Office
111 High view,
3761 S. Amherst Hwy.
Madison heights

Paving has been completed around the new Tribal Office, with a road paved joining the car park of the future Tribal Medical Clinic with the main parking. This will enable Monacans to seamlessly move from tribal building to tribal building.

If you haven't seen the new Tribal Office, please feel free to contact the office and we will arrange a tour for you.

Food Bank

The Food Bank's renovations have almost been completed and looks terrific. Sally, Jennifer, Lou Lou and Bertha will be moving in during December.

John Sparks, a fellow Monacan, and his Monacan work crew (brother Elmer, Ray Branham, Daniel Belvin, James Miller, and Cassey Johnson (non-native)) have done a fantastic job. With the staggering rise in COVID-19 cases and one (1) in six (6) Americans not having access to enough food, the food bank team is working hard distributing food to those in need within the community.

The Food Bank has Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), including hand sanitizer, gloves and masks available free of charge for all Monacan tribal members.

Indian Health Services (I.H.S.)

I.H.S. is a critical partner in providing services to the Monacan people. There will only be two (2) Native American health clinics for Virginia, one will be beside the new Tribal Office and the other located in the Richmond area.

In the interim there will be three (3) mobile clinics which will travel around the federally recognized tribes in Virginia to provide medical services. The mobile clinics are expected to operation by April 2021.

Ann McEachin has joined Lucy Curry in the Monacan Indian Nation I.H.S. team to help provide medical the Monacan people locally.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

General Assistance Program Grant is made available through the EPA to help build and sustain an Environmental Protection Department for the Tribe. We will be scheduling a Town Hall meeting soon to discuss and bring to light any environmental/health concerns among tribal citizens. The dates and times for that event are not set yet.

Over the past month, there have been discussions with several agencies pertaining to renewable energy sources for the Tribe, both as a whole and for tribal citizens. Some other focus areas for the program include, but are not limited to, water quality, indoor air quality, and soil quality. Again, these are just a few areas of focus. Once we conduct a Town Hall and open a community questionnaire, we can gain a better understanding of individual needs and concerns.

There is assistance available for home septic repairs. If you have questions pertaining to this assistance program or have questions about the Environmental Protection Program, please contact the Tribal Office or email your questions to TribalOffice@MonacanNation.com.

Enrollment

Applications for New Enrollment and Current Citizen ID Cards are continuing to be processed. A backlog of applications remains as we have not been able to process many since the Pandemic Grant started in early July 2020. Your continued patience is greatly appreciated as we work through the applications as quickly as possible.

Should you need your Birth Certificate and/or Marriage License back at this time, please send your request to Enrollment@MonacanNation.com.

Please note that applications may be mailed in or dropped off without an appointment. If you are dropping off your application, you may request that we copy your Birth Certificate/Marriage License and return them to you while you are there. Scheduling appointments will resume after the backlog of applications is processed.

*****While the office is closed from December 21, 2020 until January 4, 2021, applications will only be accepted by mail.*****

All applications will be processed in the order in which they are received. No applications will be approved/processed on a walk-in basis.

Again, thank you for your patience. If you have any questions or concerns, please send them in an email to Enrollment@MonacanNation.com.

HUD

The Housing Department has undertaken four (4) Weatherization/Rehabilitation projects during 2020. If you require weatherization/rehabilitation for your home, please let us know, we'd be glad to help in any way we can.

Due to the current state of the economy, there is an increase in the Homeless Prevention Services Program and Rental Assistance applications. We are continuing to take applications for all programs and approve on a first come, first serve basis. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way.

The 2021 IHP has been completed and is awaiting approval from Council. The Housing Department will continue to search for additional grants that will be beneficial to the tribe, along with always working to improve current policies, to better be able to serve the Monacan Indian Nation. Any feedback is very welcome.

Employment Opportunities

The Nation continues to grow and provide employment opportunities for the Monacan people. We are currently interviewing for a Housing and Procurement Technician and will be interviewing in the new year (2021) for the following positions:

Grounds Keeper (part-time): Tribal Center at 111 Highview Dr., Madison Heights. This person will be responsible for all grounds work, including mowing and lawn/garden maintenance, handyman jobs and security.

Driver (part-time): located at the Tribal Center to transport tribal members who need medical transport or other essential transport.

When the positions are open for interviews, they will be advertised at www.monacannation.com and on Indeed.com. If you are a tribal citizen or a Native American, you will qualify for Indian preference.

Please be safe and continue to practice COVID-19 safety measures. Feel free to contact the office with any questions you may have to the above. Also, if you need anything, or if I can help you in anyway, please contact me or the office.

Merry Christmas to you and your family!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Branham". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Kenneth Branham
Tribal Chief

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Compton". The signature is more abstract and less legible than the one to its left.

Adrian Compton
Tribal Administrator