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Working Together Today to Build a Better Tomorrow May/June 2018
The Tribe’s Solid Waste Management Program will be offering curbside collection of materials in the community from May 7 to June 8, 2018.

Tribal staff will not go into your house or garage to collect the materials. You need to place your materials at the road in order for them to be picked up. There is no charge for the service. The Tribe is paying for this special collection.

This special collection service does not include your regular household garbage. Only bulky items, white goods and scrap metal will be collected.

**White Goods & Scrap Metal**

White goods are appliances found in houses. These include refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, stoves, ovens, toasters, microwaves, washers, dryers and hot water heaters. Scrap metal is material made of the following metals: steel, stainless steel, tin, iron, aluminum, copper, brass, magnesium and alloys.

**Bulky Items**

Old furniture, mattresses, non-metal appliances, siding, drywall, lumber (no pieces longer than 4 feet), carpets and insulation.

**Electronics**

Anything containing a circuit boards: computers & computer accessories, printers, televisions, microwave ovens, telephones, cell phones & chargers, GPS units, radios/boom boxes, storage devices, audio & video equipment, cameras, recording devices, medical testing & laboratory equipment, cables, wires, power cords/straps, all batteries, freon containing devices/materials.

**Non-acceptable Materials:**

Materials containing or leaking liquids, household hazardous waste materials. No tires, automobile parts, pallets or wastes generated from construction businesses will be collected.

Note: There will be no collection on May 28th (Memorial Day) since Tribal offices are closed.

If you have any questions, please contact Russell Phillips at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Transfer Station by calling (518) 358-4632 or email: russell.phillips@srmt-nsn.gov.
Wow, this truly has been an absolutely priceless experience! I am a mixed bag of emotions as I write what might be my last Good Words of Welcome. It really does seem like only yesterday that I had the opportunity to do the welcome for our tribal newsletter, Kawenní:ios, but a year has passed already. This time last year, we completed the unveiling of the Akwesasne Veteran’s Memorial Monument (AVMM) at Generations Park. Since that time, I have remained very busy and committed to addressing community concerns in a variety of ways.

I have also continued to attend as many ‘free’ FEMA emergency planning training opportunities made available. I have focused in the area of Emergency Planning primarily because of my background in the military and policing, that being said it doesn’t take away from any of my responsibilities of having to attend meetings on multiple levels. I feel as a community leader that leaders should become knowledgeable and remain vigilant in working towards ensuring their community is always prepared for any kind of disaster or emergency situation that may arise. I believe in the ‘Proactive vs Reactive approach.’

I have attended USET meetings and continue to work with the USET-DHS Emergency Planning Committee to amend the Stafford Act and include changes from the Tribal Nations, as well as lobbying to make the changes become a reality, which is proving to be a long arduous process. I remain committed however, to doing the work with the Committee, hoping and praying for change. The federal grant program for emergency disasters is NOT an easy process to go after; it is a very competitive process for a small pot of federal dollars.

Mr. Richard Barbato, Acting Program Analyst of the Readjustment Counseling Service, along with tribal staff and myself, coordinated the February 1, 2018 Akwesasne Veterans Benefits Summit. More than 100 veterans and spouses attended, with one of the guest speakers being from the Syracuse Veterans Hospital, who expressed that in her 30+ years at the Veterans Administration, she had never seen such a large turnout. Pulling together the February 1st Veterans Benefits Summit is a testament to hard work and commitment in getting a job done.

Since the February 1st gathering, I have assisted several community veterans and am continuing to work with local veteran agencies to see what they can bring to Akwesasne in the near future. I met with the Watertown, NY Vet Center on Monday, April 23rd to discuss services available through their Veterans Mobile Unit, whose primary function is to get counseling for combat veterans and veterans in need of help.
I am currently working to complete a preliminary program assessment report on the SRMT’s Animal Control Program. It has taken a bit longer than expected due to my work schedule. The assessment will assist in the identification of the programs strengths and weaknesses and recommendations to help improve the current program services. A write-up on the Animal Control Program is contained within this issue.

I am also working to order the engraved stones for individuals to commemorate and enshrine their veteran’s name at the Akwesasne Veterans Memorial Monument. The memorial stones will last forever and work well with the natural landscape and site aesthetics at the monument’s location. To date, a few people have taken the opportunity to order a memorial stone for their fallen loved one who served in either the Canadian or U.S. military from Akwesasne. If you or anyone you know wishes to order a memorial stone, please contact Courtney Jacobs at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe by calling (518) 358-2272 ext. 2239.

I would be negligent if I didn’t take this time to thank all the outstanding tribal employees who have offered their help or assisted me in any way — from guiding me through the various administrative processes to the boots on the ground coordinating of recent and current events and projects that I’ve had the opportunity to work on. Without the time, dedication, commitment and the hard work of tribal staff I would not have learned and accomplished as much as I did in the past three years. I am honored to have served as your Sub-Chief. Niawen:kó:wa to all!

I will close by saying that as I head down the road to the end of my tenure as a Sub-Chief, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to the community for having provided me with the opportunity to work for you to the best of my abilities. Throughout my term, I have remained dedicated and committed to being accountable to the people by providing monthly CKON radio updates on my work, community involvement and other activities.

Wherever the chips fall in the upcoming tribal election, it has been my pleasure to work for the community of Akwesasne.

Ó:nen tánon niawen:kó:wa,
Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs
Tribe Endorses Candidates for May 15th Salmon River School Board Election
Supports Proposition to Alternate Elections at St. Regis Mohawk School

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is encouraging school district residents to support candidates PJ Burns, Agnes “Sweets” Jacobs and Curtis White in the upcoming Salmon River School Board Election on Tuesday, Onerahtohkhó:wa/May 15, 2018. In addition to voting on two school board seats, district residents will also have a chance to vote in favor of a proposition to hold the annual school board election and budget vote at the St. Regis Mohawk School on alternating years.

“Holding the school board elections at the St. Regis Mohawk School is a measure that our community has been seeking that will increase inclusion of Akwesasne residents in decisions made by the school district. Voting in favor of the proposition will give community members who have children attending the Salmon River School District a stronger voice in their education,” stated Tribal Chief Eric Thompson.

On Tuesday, Ennisko:wa/March 13, 2018; the Salmon River School Board voted six to two in favor of adding a proposition to this year’s school district elections that proposes to alternate voting locations between the St. Regis Mohawk School and the main campus in Fort Covington. Onerahtohkhó:wa/May 15th will be the first time that elections will be held at the Mohawk School, which will provide an opportunity for both schools to host the annual election on alternating years.

Approximately 68 percent of the Salmon River student body is comprised of Native students enrolled with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. As a result, the Tribe is asking local residents to vote in support of the proposition and to ensure that the voice of Akwesasne youth has equivalent representation on the school board by voting to re-elect PJ Burns and to elect Agnes “Sweets” Jacobs or Curtis White.

“The overwhelming participation of Akwesasne residents in previous school district elections has been an important factor toward ensuring all students are provided with a supportive educational environment,” said Tribal Chief Michael Conners, who currently serves on the school board. He noted, “May 15th represents the very first time that the Salmon River School District will be holding elections at the St. Regis Mohawk School and is an opportunity to maintain majority Native representation on the school board.”

“We express our appreciation to the three candidates for their desire to represent the interests of all students in the Salmon River Central School District,” shared Tribal Chief Beverly Cook. She added, “Our children represent our community’s future and, with continuing representation from our community, we’re confident that the school board will continue to seek partnerships and opportunities to help prepare all students for college or a chosen career.”

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is encouraging school district residents to vote in the Salmon River School Board Election on Tuesday, Onerahtohkhó:wa/May 15, 2018 from Noon to 8:00 p.m. at the St. Regis Mohawk School located at 385 Church Street in Akwesasne, New York.
**PJ Burns** is an 18-year veteran with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department and has provided D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) instruction throughout the Salmon River School District for more than five years. He is also an Executive Board Member of the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club and Director of the annual Kids for Fishing, which has benefitted 400 youth during the past eight years—including 80 children with special needs. He is seeking re-election following a three-term that expires on Ohiarí:ha/June 30, 2018.

**Agnes “Sweets” Jacobs** currently serves as Tribal Sub-Chief on the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council. Elected to a three-year term on Tribal Council that began on Ohiaríhkó:wa/July 1, 2017; Jacobs is actively involved in education, as all her children and grandchildren have or are still attending the St. Regis Mohawk School or Salmon River’s main campus. She is also a big proponent for youth sports and has coached for North Franklin Sports, has previously worked with persons dealing with learning disabilities and supported implementation of an anti-bullying campaign, as well as wants to revive the Junior National Honor Society to the Mohawk School.

**Curtis White** is a school district parent, with two children currently attending Salmon River Central and one who graduated in 2017. He served five years in the U.S. Navy, which included three years with their construction battalion (a.k.a. Seabees) and received training as an electrician. In 1992, he received an Associate’s Degree in Electrical Technology from SUNY Canton. He is a member of the American Legion Post #1479 Honor Guard and volunteers with many school and community fundraisers, as well as assists with youth athletic teams.
Tribal Caucus & Election Information

By Jacey Rourke, Communications Specialist

About the Election Board

The Election Board members are appointed by Tribal Council to ensure, direct and manage the security and integrity of the tribal caucus, elections and referendums in accordance with the Election and Referendum Ordinance.

Tribal Election Board Members are Joseph Bowen-Brewer, Sheila Loran, Angela George, Konwahontsiawi and Hope Wheelock.

Tribal Caucus – Saturday, May 5, 2018

There are three positions open: one Tribal Chief, one Tribal Sub-Chief and one Tribal Clerk.

On Saturday, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 5, 2018 the caucus begins at 10:00 a.m. sharp in the lobby of the Tribal Community Building when the floor will be opened for nominations for each respective position. All nominees are responsible for submitting their required documents and drug testing by the close of business on Wednesday, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 9th. The unofficial list of all nominees will be posted by Friday, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 11th.

Eligible Voters

In accordance with the Election and Referendum Ordinance, nominators must be an eligible voter and must:

• Be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

• Be an enrolled member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

• Nominees for all elected positions must be present to accept or refuse the nomination at the time of the caucus.

• Reside in the United States or in the U.S. portion of Akwesasne for at least six months immediately prior to the election, and

• Have their name on the most current eligible voters list.

Electronic Tally Machines

The Tribal Election Board has explored options to enhance efficiency and voter confidence as well as to reduce time and costs associated with conducting tribal elections. Dominion-brand voting machines have been selected for in-person voting. The Tribal Election board has entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Franklin County Office of the Election Board to furnish the electronic machines at no cost. These voting machines are also utilized by the Salmon River School Board for their board elections and budget vote. The Electronic Tally Machines will cut down the time by providing election results within minutes of the polls closing rather than awaiting a hand count of the votes.

Mock Election for Seniors – Monday, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 7, 2018

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Election Board is holding a mock election and presentation on electronic tallying machines at 3:15 on Monday, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 7, 2018 at the Office of the Aging. Akwesasne TV will be recording the presentation and that will be shared at a public meeting for the rest of the community.

Public Meeting: Electronic Tall Machines Presentation – Monday, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 14, 2018

The mock election and presentation on electronic tally machines
at the Office of the Aging has been recorded by Akwesasne TV. On Monday, Onerahokó:wa/May 14, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. a public meeting is going to be held in the Tribe’s Community Building for all community members to view the mock election and presentation. This will give all community the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the new voting machines.

**Voter Identification**

Under the Election Ordinance a valid photo identification can be a Tribal Enrollment Card or any valid ID with a picture of the Tribal member issued by any government entity may be used to prove identity on Election Day.

On Election Day valid identification is used to establish identity at the time of voting and is not used to establish eligibility to vote.

Prior to voting members are responsible for ensuring their name is on the eligible voters list.

Expired photo identification will not be accepted as proof of identity.

**Absentee Ballots**

Absentee ballots will be available once the candidates are certified by the Election Board. You must contact the Tribal Clerk’s office to request an “Absentee Ballot Application”. After confirming the eligibility of the voter the Tribal Clerk’s office shall provide the voter one “Absentee Ballot Application” and one “Ballot” for each position. The application must be notarized and returned with ballots.

Ballots must be received by 12:00 p.m. the day of the Election. The Absentee Ballots will be kept in a locked ballot box in the Tribal Clerk’s office and will be opened during the counting procedure. The Tribal Clerk is responsible for maintaining a clear record of Absentee Ballot requests.

**In-Home Voting**

In-Home voting will only be available for home bound eligible voters residing on the Saint Regis Mohawk Reservation. Home bound eligible voters must request this service and the Election Board shall keep a record of all requests. A member of the Election Board and a representative of the Tribal Clerk’s Office will be available to provide this service. In-Home voting will take place on Friday, Ohirí:ha/June 1st, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please contact the Tribal Clerk’s Office by end of business day, Onerahokó:wa/ Wednesday, Onerahokó:wa/May 30, 2018.

**Walk-In Voting**

The Election Board has made arrangements for Walk-In voting, that will be conducted in accordance with all the rules for regular elections, to take place for at least two sessions prior to the scheduled election date. Walk-In voting will be conducted on Tuesday, Onerahokó:wa/May 29th and Wednesday, Onerahokó:wa/May 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Community Building Lobby.

**Annual Tribal Election – Saturday, Ohirí:ha/June 2, 2018**

The annual tribal election will be held on Ohirí:ha/June 2, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Community Building. Voters are required to bring their Tribal enrollment card or other valid photo identification.

Caucus and Election results will be made available on the Tribe’s website and Facebook page, as well as in the local newspapers, radio and television stations.

The Election Ordinance can be viewed online at the Tribe’s website at www.srmt-nsn.gov. A printed copy is also available in the Tribal Clerk’s Office.

To verify your eligibility to vote, request an absentee ballot, or for questions or concerns regarding the eligible voter’s list, please contact the Tribal Clerk’s Office at (518) 358-2272. ♦
The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Election Board announced efforts are underway to introduce electronic tallying for the tribal elections being held on Saturday, Ohiari:ha/June 2, 2018. A mock public election will be held at 3:15 p.m. on Monday, Onerahtokó:wa/ May 7, 2018 at the Office of the Aging (Senior Center) for tribal voters to become familiar with an electronic tallying system.

“We want tribal voters to participate in the May 7th mock election and learn about the benefits of using electronic machines,” said Election Board Member Joseph Bowen-Brewer. He noted, “Members of the Election Board will be on hand to explain and assist individuals on the process to submit votes electronically. It’s a process that some tribal voters are already familiar with using in the school board elections.”

For the past year, the Election Board has been exploring options to enhance efficiency and voter confidence, as well as to reduce time and costs associated with conducting tribal elections. The most viable option is using Dominion-brand voting machines for in-person voting from the Franklin County Office of the Election Board. The County Election Board also provides the same machines to the Salmon River School Board for their board elections and budget vote.

The Tribal Election Board has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Franklin County Office of the Election Board to furnish the electronic machines at no cost. The only costs associated with using an electronic tally system is for purchasing voting ballots and sets of memory cards, as well as for labor and delivery; which is around $1,500 and represents a cost saving from previous elections.

“Electronic voting machines significantly reduce the number of people and time needed to manually count each ballot,” said Election Board Member Hope Wheelock. She added, “Automating the voting process reduces the likelihood of human error and increases the integrity of the vote, as well as provides election results in a fraction of the time. What took hours to count by hand will now be performed in minutes.”

Following the mock election, the Election Board has scheduled a presentation for tribal members that will be held at 5:30 p.m. on May 14th in the Tribe’s Community Building Lobby. The mock election will be recorded and viewed at the beginning of the May 14th Public Meeting, as well as on Akwesasne TV.
Health Services Readies for Expansion Project

By Adrian McDonald, Safety Officer

Construction on the SRMT Health Services building expansion has begun. The expansion will include an additional 17,700 square feet of space and use energy conservation measures; including ground-mounted solar photovoltaic arrays, and high efficiency lighting, room occupancy lighting sensors, recycled building materials and furniture, and construction waste management program. The additional space is needed to address the increasing number of clients (currently 14,224 registered); to increase Outreach and Mental Health counseling rooms; and address space constraints associated with the lab, pharmacy, and waiting and program staff rooms.

The expansion project will require a lane dedicated to construction vehicle traffic. This lane will require the elimination of the last row of parking and the loss of two parking lots beside and behind the SRMHS Clinic. To deal with the loss of the parking spaces in the main lot, program vehicles have been moved offsite to IGA.

The main parking lot (brown/green) will be reserved for community members, visitors and employees with mobility impaired permits only.

Community members visiting the facilities are asked to please be patient and do not park in non-parking areas. We need to keep the fire lanes around the buildings free. To avoid confusion, we will be installing barriers and clearly marking where the parking lanes end. We will also be enforcing the parking rules to ensure the safety of all those using our facilities.

The entire Health Services Expansion Project will be constructed in several phases and is expected to be completed in 2020.
By Ryan King, Three Sisters Program Manager

On Friday, Onerahkó:non/April 25, 2018, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Three Sisters Program held its Teal to Heal Walk. The event is held each year in the month of April and coincides with National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Its purpose is to raise awareness of sexual assault and sexual violence against women in Akwesasne, as well as to give survivors of sexual assault a voice in their healing process.

This year’s event was held at the Generations Park’s Tewahatah Walking Trail and featuring a “Sexual Assault Trivia” walk. It entailed participants walking along the trail and answering ten facts/questions about sexual assault in Native American populations.

Throughout the duration of the walk, each participant also received one ticket to enter into a drawing for door prizes for every lap they completed. This year, over 100 community members, from youth to elders, came out to participate and partake in this year’s walk.

The Three Sisters Program thanks the community for their support and participation, as well as the following local businesses for their generous support and donations: Big Boys Gas & Tobacco, Tarbell Management Group, CKON, The Taylor Family, Akwesasne Mohawk Casino, YMCA Malone, Walmart – Malone, Eagles, and Brasshorse Bar & Grill.

Since 1998, the Three Sisters Program has been offering assistance to individuals and families experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, harassment, stalking, bullying, lateral violence, and other forms of exploitation. Through community events, such as the annual Teal to Heal Walk, they help raise awareness and provide support services aimed at preventing sexual violence against women.

For more information about the annual Teal to Heal Walk or the Three Sisters Program, please call their offices during normal business hours at (518) 358-4406.

Joining over 100 community members were (from left) Barbara Lazore, Tribal Sub-Chief Agnes “Sweets” Jacobs, Cathy Mitchell, Tassie Rourke, Annie Bero, Tribal Chief Beverly Cook and Jori Rourke.

True – More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence, and more than 1 in 2 have experienced sexual violence.
The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is pleased to announce a new tribal program has been developed to provide financial assistance to tribal elders beginning on Oharihkó:wa/ July 15, 2018. A three-year pilot project is being launched that will provide quarterly disbursements of $600 (equivalent of $200 per month) to tribal elders ages 68-years old or more who reside within the southern portion of the Akwesasne community or in the 15-mile radius of the Tribe’s jurisdiction.

“I thank members of the Elder’s Benefit Working Group for their efforts during the past year in helping to fulfill the intended purpose of the elders benefit referendum,” said Tribal Chief Eric Thompson. Chief Thompson added, “Along with the support of the Tribal Council, Office of the Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel and other tribal staff; reasonable and realistic recommendations were provided to help an important segment of the Akwesasne community—our elders.”

On Tsiothóhrha/December 3, 2016; a tribal referendum was held to determine support for an elder’s benefit of $200 each month however, a budgetary plan was not developed that identified the benefit’s funding source. As a result, following the referendum’s passage by 385 “yes” votes to 150 “no’ votes, the Tribal Council assembled an Elder’s Benefit Working Group to help research and propose options for the benefit’s implementation. The working group identified new funding sources that will not affect existing programs and services provided to all tribal members and the community of Akwesasne.

During the past year, the seven-person Elder’s Benefit Working Group, which is comprised of tribal members who represented a cross section of the community, met to research information on tribal programs and services, as well as the gaming operations. Their final report was completed and presented to the Tribal Council on Kentenhkó:wa/ November 26, 2017 and contained options and recommendations for implementation of an Elder’s Benefit Pilot Project.

“The Elder’s Benefit Working Group’s final report summarizes their weekly meetings, discussions on services presently provided to tribal elders, possible eligibility requirements, and possibilities for funding a new tribal program,” shared Tribal Chief Michael Conners. He added, “It provided a framework for subsequent work that was done earlier this year in developing the policies, procedures and amendments needed to implement a three-year pilot project that will provide financial assistance to tribal elders.”

The Tribal Council, with the assistance of the Elder’s Benefit Working Group, determined that a three-year Elder’s Benefit Pilot
Project can be funded by increasing the Hotel Motel Occupancy Fees and through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Akwesasne Convenience Store Association for its remittal of agreed-upon monies on a monthly basis. The pilot program will also be supplemented through new revenue streams that entails a 4-percent fee on cash sales for food and beverages at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort and allocating start-up funds from the Tribe’s Community Development Investment Fund (patent funds).

The Elder’s Benefit Pilot Project will be subject to written guideline and disbursed on a quarterly basis (every three months) through direct deposits, with the first disbursement of $600 scheduled for Ohiarihkó:wa/July 15, 2018. The quarterly disbursement will be a “general welfare” benefit provided by the Tribe under the provisions of the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014. Its goal is to provide tribal elders with financial support to meet their basic living needs; such as safe and habitable housing, assistance with meals and home care, and assistance with medical expenses and non-prescription medications.

To receive the benefit, tribal elders ages 68-years and older who reside in the southern portion of Akwesasne or within the 15-mile radius of the Tribe’s jurisdiction will need to complete an application in-person with the Tribe’s Compliance Department, located in the Community Building at 412 State Route 37 in Akwesasne, New York. Those requiring assistance can arrange for a home visit to complete the application by calling (518) 358-2272.

“Given the success of the Elder’s Electricity Assistance Pilot Project, I’m confident that the Elder’s Benefit Pilot Project will also help alleviate the financial stress and burdens experienced by many of our tribal elders,” remarked Tribal Chief Beverly Cook. Chief Cook added, “Similar to the previous initiative for tribal elders, we intend to re-evaluate and, hopefully, expand this new tribal program in the near future.”

Applications for the first disbursement will be available beginning on Onerabtokó:wa/May 12, 2018 until Ohiarí:ha/June 12, 2018 Any applications received after Ohiarí:ha/June 12th will be included in the second disbursement scheduled for Kenténh/ October 15, 2018. Only one application needs to be completed for tribal elders to become enrolled into the Elder’s Benefit Pilot Project.
Business Park Road Construction Brings Changes to Generations Park

By Jacey Rourke, Communications Specialist

Construction has begun on the Business Park Road Expansion Project. Business Park Road (the road to the Seniors’ Center and Tewathahi:ta Walking Trail) will be extended from its current end point at the Diabetes Center for Excellence to McGee Road. The road expansion is in connection to the new 54,700-squarefoot Tribal Administration Building at 71 Business Park Road in Akwesasne, New York. When completed in September 2018; the three-story building will house tribal offices, provide parking for 225 vehicles, as well as serve as an Emergency Operations Center. The project site for the new Tribal Administration Building will be located on approximately seven-acres at Generations Park; which is also the location of the Tribe’s Office for the Aging, Tribal Police Department, Tribal Court, Diabetes Center for Excellence, Travis Solomon Memorial Lacrosse Box, Tewathahitha Walking Trail, and several recreation and athletic fields.

In April, the Recycling Depot was removed to ensure the safety of community members, motorists and the construction workers who are modifying the roadway at the State Route 37 - Business Park Road intersection. Community members can dispose of their recyclables at the Tribe’s Solid Waste Transfer Station, 179 County Route 43, Fort Covington. The hours of operation at the Transfer Station are Monday - Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (gate closes at 2:45 p.m.). The Transfer Station accepts recyclable materials free of charge and zero sort. Zero sort recycling means material separation is no longer required. The Solid Waste Management Program is currently evaluating the relocation and operation of the recycling depot and any changes will be announced to the community.

The Office for the Aging has informed their clients that minor delays are to be expected. Elders coming in for meals and activities may have to wait up to five minutes before they can pull into the parking lot. Other than the delays in accessing the parking lot the Office for the Aging does not anticipate any other cancellations or delays to services. Any unexpected disruptions to services will be announced on the Tribe’s Facebook page and CKON 97.3 FM.

Generations Park has decided to cancel any large event requests for park usage during the spring and early summer 2018 season. This decision was made due to the risks and hazards associated with high volume construction and Generations Park staff cannot safely manage the crowd large events attract. If your group has a large event planned this summer, Tisha Thompson of Jacob’s Manufacturing and Patricia Thompson of Mohawk International Speedway have agreed to accept applications for use of their facilities.

Motorists traveling on State Route 37 will also be affected by this expansion project. Beginning the week of May 7, 2018, excavation of road shoulders to widen the road will result in delays at the Business Park Road and State Route 37 intersection.

Please exercise caution and remain alert while traveling through the intersection and visiting buildings in Generations Park. Remember to plan ahead if you have an appointment in the area to allow for delays. Be courteous and patient with road construction employees and other motorists sharing the roadway. ♦
The Johnson O’Malley (JOM) Modernization Act (Bill S.943) was passed by the US Senate in October 2017 and is currently awaiting approval from the US House of Representatives. This means big changes for the JOM Program, including the potential for additional funding and additional resources for students. Many of us grew up with JOM helping with sports such as basketball, lacrosse, and baseball. Some of us were counselors at the summer program and we received tutorial services in school.

Today’s JOM Program focuses more on the educational well-being of students. There are Education Specialists who work in the Salmon River and Massena Central School Districts who focus on tutoring and college and career preparation through college visits and incentives. JOM partners with the school’s Title VI programs to provide cultural enrichment as well as partnering with numerous community programs to provide safe, healthy educational opportunities. JOM was originally introduced to Congress in 1934 and approved in 1937 for US states to be reimbursed the cost of education of Native American students (impact aid). The agreement was the Secretary of the Interior had authority to give contracts to provide education, social services, transportation, and health services.

In the 1960s and 1970s, JOM became more of a supplemental program. It currently has 343 contracts, including the contract with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. The current law froze the student count in 1995 as inaccurate student counts were found among the different contracting school districts and tribes. As of 1995, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s funding from BIA was based on 1,139 students. As of 2017, our JOM Program served over 5,000 students.

The JOM Modernization Act will direct the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to work with the Bureau of Indian Education Director and allow new data to determine the new baseline number of students. In 1995, there were nationally 272,000 JOM students. JOM eligible students are currently estimated at 800,000 to 1.1 million.

The new law asking for new student numbers means a lot of groundwork. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s JOM program hopes to be among the contributors to create a program that benefits students and their families. We will work together today to create a better tomorrow. For further information on how to help the JOM Program pass the Modernization Act, please call (518) 358-9721 to speak with Samantha Phillips, JOM Program Manager and NJOMA Region 4 Representative.

Summer youth jobs will be posting soon, so be sure to have your resume updated and if you are between the ages of 14 and 17, you will need to get a New York State Work Permit. You can obtain forms from your Guidance Department at Salmon River or Massena Central Schools.
For nearly 24 years, Laurie has been employed with the Head Start, an ECDP program, as a Family Service Coordinator. She started as an involved parent and active volunteer while her three children attended the program. She was president of the parent committee and policy council. While her children were students she was asked to volunteer as a substitute when they were short of staff. She eagerly accepted and can remember being at the school nearly every day.

In 1994, parental involvement was becoming a vital and key component of the Head Start program so it was decided the creation of a new position was necessary to foster parental involvement. Instantly, Laurie was thought of as the perfect candidate and was encouraged to apply. Fortunately, she always dreamed of having a job at the Head Start a place she had long considered as her home away from home.

“I already had my kids but working at Head Start was my dream job, the ideal place to work when I grew up.”

Laurie recalls that Linda Terrance was her supervisor and Melanie Conners was the Director when she began her employment with ECDP.

Her role has since evolved while working for Head Start. Although, Laurie still facilitates parental involvement she is also responsible for the eligibility, recruitment, selection, enrollment and attendance of the enrolled students. The program’s current attendance regulation is new for the program. When a student is absent and the family has not contacted the school within the first hour of opening a phone call is made to check on the family to make sure everything is okay at home.

Although Laurie was young and admittedly naïve when she first began her work at the Head Start some eye-opening experiences have influenced Laurie to do her best to bridge any gaps where a family may be lacking in resources.

“My greatest achievement is fostering the growth and the success of the parents. I do home visits with all the parents and try to build a trusting relationship. I am proud to able to help them when it is needed. Over the past ten years we have helped our families access employment, housing, education, food stamps, child support, and evaluations for their children and so many other services that can enrich the lives our families. Seeing our families thrive and grow is how I measure my success. This is my life. This is my family. I love what I do and it is rewarding.”

Laurie is thrilled that some of her former students are now parents. She enjoys being a part of the spoiling and nurturing of the children that attend Head Start before they move on to preschool.

“In 2014, I was diagnosed with Leukemia and the support I was able to offer our families both past and present were really there to support me when I needed it most. I felt the impact I’ve had on our families and that truly helped me get through a tough time when I was hospitalized for thirty days in Burlington. The parents were calling, texting, and sending messages on Facebook to wish me well and that really lifted my spirits.”

For over twenty years, Laurie has opened her heart and has nurtured so many families in our community. Niawenkó:wa Laurie for all you do for the families and children of Akwesasne.
How to Claim a Pet from the Animal Control Program

By Jacey Rourke, Communications Specialist

The mission of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Animal Control Program is to promote programs of animal care, responsible pet ownership and population control, and assist tribal members in a variety of animal related problems. Pursuant to the Animal Control Ordinance, the Animal Control Program helps ensure that all animals are kept under restraint and do not pose a nuisance to the general public. With the warmer weather however, Animal Control becomes busy responding to a number of loose or nuisance animal calls that come through Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department Dispatch.

When an animal is picked up by an Animal Control Officer, they are held in a temporary pound that provides a secure and humane environment until the owner can claim them. The Animal Control Officer will then make every reasonable effort to notify the owner and inform them how an animal can be reclaimed. Any animal that is impounded may be claimed within three days and upon payment of an impound fee.

The impound fee is a flat rate of $35 (U.S.) for one hour up to three days and includes the cost of food and shelter. Owners will need to provide proof of a current rabies vaccination before a dog can be released. If proof of a current rabies vaccination cannot be obtained, a rabies vaccination will be given to the animal and the owner will be charged an additional $15 (U.S.). A dog is also required to have an identification tag, which is available for $5 (U.S.). Please note that, due to repeated offenses, the fees will be doubled for animals that were under the care of the Animal Control Program more than once.

If an animal is not claimed within the three-day period, ownership will be forfeited. Individuals will be able to adopt the animal if they are not claimed within the given time frame by their owner. Prior to being adopted however, the dog must be neutered; so vaccination fees, licensing fees, and veterinary costs may be assessed above and beyond the adoption fee.

As a safety measure, the Animal Control Program strongly encourages all owners to microchip their dog. Microchipping helps to identify the owners of cats, dogs and other pets, so they can quickly return home instead of being sent to a shelter. Animal Control does not currently offer microchipping services, but can read the chips thanks to a microchip reader donation from the Akwesasne Animal Society.

Please be a responsible pet owner and keep your dog secure, vaccinated, neutered and microchipped, as well as provide appropriate shelter and food. This will lead to a long and healthy life for your animal.

If you have any questions, please contact SRMT Animal Control Program at (518) 358-2272. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. In the event of an emergency, please call Tribal Police (518) 358-9200.

Jennifer Herne from the Akwesasne Animal Society donated a microchip reader to Albert Tenasco and Georgina Mitchell for the Animal Control Program.
Keep It Moving - The Air, That Is

By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager

Well, it looks like things are warming up now. Whew, finally! So, how about that winter with all the cold and the flooding? Kept us pretty busy. Let’s just hope the summer is nice and warm and uneventful. About the flooding. Now is a good time to open those windows and doors and get some good air flow through your house. If you had water infiltrate your home, fresh air will get that musty smell out. As I’ve said before, ventilation is key (or “You’ve got to move it move it! The air, that is.”) If you think you have a bigger problem than just airing out your house and would like some help on identifying the problem, please don’t hesitate to give us a call at (518) 358-5937.

Warmer temperatures mean the air conditioners will be coming out. If you’re like me, you may use your heater and AC in the same day. One thing to remember when you get that AC out of winter storage, check it out. What I mean by that is, check the electrical cord and plug make sure no animals have been chewing on it. You also need to check the filter and make sure there is one in the unit and it is clean. Take a quick look to make sure there are no nests or insect colonies in the unit.

Now, on to the past year within the Air Program. Things are going really great. The air technicians are doing their part to ensure the air we all breathe is monitored. Marlene Thompson is busy with burn permit applications and collecting precipitation to measure acid rain and Taylor Smoke is busy with making sure the air monitoring instruments are running properly and helping out the environmental response team with fuel oil spills/cleanup.

It turns out that the National Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center (TAMS) has a steering committee made up of tribal professionals. This year, they were seeking three new members. I nominated Taylor and he was selected. For the next three years, Taylor will be sitting on the steering committee helping the TAMS center make decisions on tribal air monitoring. Congratulations Taylor! It’s also nice that the TAMS center picks up the costs so it doesn’t come out of our budget for any travel he is required to do.

Talking about budgets, we all hear about the budgets being reduced coming out of Washington. The SRMT Environment Division Air Quality Program is not immune. The program is 100% funded by the USEPA, but because of our low operating costs we will still be ok even if they reduce our budget. Our services to the community will not change as you are the reason we do what we do. The health of our community is our number one priority.

So for now and for the next seven generations we are here, let us know if you need us.

By the way, the electric car (even though it’s blue) is growing on me, LOL. ♦
**Tribal Gaming Commission Licensing Manager Elected to National Board**

At the 2017 Fall Conference for the National Tribal Gaming Commission/Regulators (NTGCR) association, the membership elected Amber McDonald in the Secretary position. As an enrolled member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Amber has worked for the Saint Regis Mohawk Gaming Commission for eighteen years, most recently as the Licensing Manager. Her role at the national level is focused on increasing engagement and she is looking forward the challenge.

“I am honored to represent my Tribe and our Gaming Commission on a national level. I look forward to working with other regulators to promote gaming education and information sharing amongst some of the best and brightest gaming regulators across the country,” stated McDonald.

The National Tribal Gaming Commission/Regulators mission is to promote cooperative relationships among the commissioners/regulators of tribal gaming enterprises and other organizations and to promote regulatory standards, methods of operation, educational seminars and other activities, through the exchange of ideas and information, for the mutual benefit of all concerned. NTGCR may also act as a gaming regulatory advisory group to tribal gaming organizations and others. The Executive Board consists of Jamie Hummingbird (Cherokee Nation) - Chairman, Amber McDonald (Saint Regis Mohawk) - Secretary, Mark Powless (Oneida Nation of Wisconsin) - Senior Vice Chairman, and Lester Stanley (Rincon) - Treasurer.

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**Tribal Council Resolutions (TCRs)**

**Enniskó:wa/March 28 to Onerahtókha/April 26, 2018**

TCRs are the recorded decisions of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council on matters requiring a formal expression of such decisions. Some examples include, but are not limited to, adoption and amendment of tribal ordinances or laws that do not require referendum vote, approval of grant applications, appointment of Administrators of estates and conduct of day-to-day tribal business operations requiring a written record of Tribal Council approval. (Source: Tribal Procedures Act, adopted by referendum Ohiari:ha/June 1, 2013.)

**TCR 2018-12** To approve application to the Cultural Resource Fund Phase 3.

**TCR 2018-13** Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program FY 2018.

**TCR 2018-14** To authorize the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Education Division to seek funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Program for Native Americans to assist youth in a school-based, culturally relevant program.

**TCR 2018-15** To authorize the Akwesasne Cultural Restoration Program to seek funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Program for Native Americans under the Native American language preservation and maintenance program.

**TCR 2018-16** Amend the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Alcoholic Beverages Control Act.

**TCR 2018-17** To authorize the Akwesasne Cultural Restoration Program to seek funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Program for Native Americans for the Akwesasne Customary Harvest Code.

**TCR 2018-18** Renew memberships in the National Indian Gaming Association for 2018.

**TCR 2018-19** Authorize the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department to seek funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Highway Safety Law Enforcement Grant.
**Financing Available for Akwesasne Businesses**

The Akwesasne Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF) was established to assist Akwesasne businesses to create employment opportunities and a diversified economy. ARLF supports loan requests from $2,000 to $10,000 for identified business activities in compliance with Tribal codes and zoning.

Eligible businesses need to be:
- Currently in operation
- Located in Akwesasne (southern portion)
- Must be 51% Native-owned by an enrolled member of Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (over the age of 18)
- Has fewer than 50 employees
- Annual gross revenues less than $1,000,000

For more information, visit: [https://www.srmt-nsn.gov/akwesasne_revolving_loan_fund](https://www.srmt-nsn.gov/akwesasne_revolving_loan_fund). To make an appointment with the Business Services Specialist, please contact the SRMT Office of Economic Development at (518) 358-2835.

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**Agriculture Program Ready for Spring**

The Agriculture Program has a number of activities planned this year that may interest community members. Our mission continues to be “To stimulate interest in consuming naturally grown foods and to awaken the spirit of producing healthy food products in Akwesasne.”

For our third season, the Agriculture Program will continue to help community members with tilling gardens at no cost. Scheduling garden tilling is as simple as calling the Environment Division at (518) 358-5937. The cooperation of Mother Nature will determine when this activity starts, but they will do their best to prepare gardens in time for growing season.

Gardens are being grouped together according to location in helping to develop a schedule. As their normal schedule is weekdays, they will most likely till your garden while you are not home. It is for this reason that they are asking for as much information as you can provide on your garden; such as location, size and condition (new or existing).

Another project of the Agriculture Program is the continuation of Mother Earth Eggs, with the chickens beginning to come out of a dormant stage and producing eggs. During the off-season, an additional 400 young hens were purchased to supplement the existing livestock. This will ensure that Mother Earth Eggs will soon be back on the shelves of local stores this summer.

There are also several new projects for the coming year. One is planting of the Program’s first crop at the former Blair Farm, located at the end of Blair Road. They will grow two acres of white corn using organic practices, which will be fed by locally produced compost combined with mechanical cultivation of weeds to produce washed corn this season.

A new exciting project is the raising of pigs. Rotational grazing of pigs, along with chickens, will help us to reclaim fallow land and bring it back into agricultural production. Once established, community members will be able to purchase a half pig that the Agriculture Program will raise at the Blair Farm. At market weight, the pigs will be taken to a processing facility that will custom cut and wrap to your preference.

Look for updates and further information on this year’s activities on the Tribes website, Facebook page, or call the Environment Division at (518) 358-5937.

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Forestry Resources Program Announces 2018 Spring Chipping Project

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division, Forestry Resources Program will begin its seasonal program to assist the community with their spring cleanup. The chipping project will begin taking sign-ups on Monday, April 23, 2018 at their office located at 449 Frogtown Road, Akwesasne, NY 13655. Actual work will begin in late May or early June when weather and ground conditions permit.

Chipping is the removal of dead and down trees, limbs and branches. This eliminates the need to burn and provides a safe and convenient way to get yards in shape for the summer months. The elderly (ages 65 and older) and disabled (evidenced by state or provincial driver disability licensing, placard or plates) are prioritized and will be served first, although, anyone can sign up. The elderly and disabled who are unable to visit the environment office to sign up can be visited by calling the program with name, phone number and address to arrange a site visit.

Anyone participating in the program will be required to sign an access waiver before work is done on their property. If there is any question regarding land ownership the Tribe reserves the right to refuse services until the issues are cleared up.

In the past the program has also assisted local cemeteries with clean up and removal of trees and branches and will do so again this year.

Community members are encouraged take advantage of these services by getting in touch with the Forestry Program at (518) 358-5937.

Tips from Tech Support - Think Before You Post

Growing up, adults always warned us to think before we act. Well in this day and age, we seriously also need to think hard before we post anything on social media, whether it be personal or all in good fun.

Did you know, when you do a public post to social media, you are not just posting to your site, posts and pictures can be seen by your friends and their friends and their friends friends. People you don’t know will be able to see you are on vacation and your house is empty.

Limit who can see posts. Be sure to do a privacy check-up on all your social media platforms. Set your posts to show only your family and friends. Add only people you know and be cautious of those you don’t. Only you can prevent how posts are shown!

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe USDA Food Distribution Program Celebrates 35th Anniversary

Please join us on Ohiarí:ha / June 29, 2018 From 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Food Distribution building located behind the Community Building, 412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655.

Activities include product testing, door prizes, recipe testing and an open house.

Tune in to Tetewatharen CKON 97.3 FM on Ohiarí:ha / June 11th for more information.
1. Review of previous action items:
   a. Tribal Council to report on March Tribal meeting motion from the floor for “Tribal Council to enact in investigation (fact finding) and evaluation of the correlation and relationship between the original Elders Benefit Group and the anonymous propaganda, which is an indirect contradiction to the benefit [to] Elders.” Investigation is currently in the information gathering and analysis stage.
   b. Request for a report at April Tribal meeting on how much the investigation is costing in reference to the March 2017 Action Item. This is information is exempt from disclosure, in accordance with the Tribal Procedures Act, under Section XI. 3. b, c, and f.
   c. Request for analysis of the correlation of Native board members on the Salmon River Central School District Board of Education and the quality of education our students receive. Work in Progress Action item is being reviewed by Director of Education, more information will be available at May Tribal Meeting.
   d. Request for Tribal Council to meet with Director of Education to discuss representation on the Massena Central School District Board of Education. Work in Progress Director of Education is coordinating a meeting with MCSD Superintendent.

2. 10:05 a.m. | Recognition of Salmon River Central Girls Varsity Hockey Team

3. 10:25 a.m. | Akwesasne Tribal Youth Council Presentation

4. 10:40 a.m. | Salmon River Central School Board Election Information by Stephanie Cook

5. 10:55 a.m. | SRMT Child Advocacy Center Update with Family Advocate and Victim Advocate by Jade White, Everett Lazore, and Kerry Jacobs

6. 11:15 a.m. | Offender Watch Update by Matthew Rourke and Casey Jacobs

7. 11:30 a.m. | Flood Update by Derek Comins, Matthew Rourke, and Tony David

8. New Business
Calendar

Onerah:twkó:wa/May
5 - Annual Tribal Election Caucus - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
8 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
9 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom
12 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
15 - SRCS Board Election & Budget Vote

Obiari:ha/June
2 - Annual Election - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Lobby
9 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
12 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
13 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom

Wednesdays - Tribal Council Work Session - 9:00 a.m. - Executive Boardroom, Community Building

New Faces

Lucy Benedict Outpatient Counselor Health Services - Partridge House
Stephen J Buddenhagen Pharmacist Health Services - Pharmacy
Julius J Cook Custodian Facilities - Maintenance
Isabella M DeArmayero Home Health Aide Health Services - Outreach
Cecelia C Francis Outreach Driver Health Services - Outreach
Kerry Jacobs Victim Advocate Community & Family Services - Family Support
Nathan F Lazore Laborer Environment - Agriculture
Blayke P Lewis Night Security Guard Community & Family Services - Three Sisters
Nichelle S Loran Prevention Educator Health Services - A/CDP
Kristen A Mckeel Pharmacist Health Services - Pharmacy
David Kyle Oakes Custodian Facilities - Maintenance
Justin D Oakes Carpenter Home Improvement
Lacey S Pierce Receptionist Education - ECDP
Karen A Plante-Lanthier Program Accountant Finance - Accounting
Larry Roundpoint Carpenter Home Improvement
Jacey T Rourke Communications Specialist Communications
Ciele Samuel SRCS Education Specialist Education - JOM
Haylee F Sunday Administrative Assistant Community & Family Services - TVR
Janelle M Thompson Office Manager Health Services - Administration
Jason A Thompson Agricultural Laborer Environment - Agriculture
Krista Tressa Pharmacist Health Services - Pharmacy
Kirby W Watson Jr Inspector Tribal Gaming

Donations

Community - $25,566.50
Funerals - $16,000
Sports - $8,500

Jobs

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 Resort’s website at www.mohawkcasino.com.
Other opportunities are posted at the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center (AERC) at www.myaerc.org.
In Support of National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native American Womens's Event

Friday, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 25, 2018 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Akwesasne Housing Authority Training Room Gazebo, 378 State Route 37, Akwesasne

1:30 a.m. - Speaker: Sarah Rourke
12:00 noon - Lunch
12:45 p.m. - Women's Self Defense Class

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY WEARING RED

Hosted by Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Three Sisters Program and Seven Dancers Coalition

On the Cover: Members of the Saint Regis Mohawk Seniors Club were present as the Akwesasne Convenience Store Association provided their first monthly contribution of $10,000 to help fund the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Elders Benefit Pilot Program. Present were (from left, first row) Tribal Sub-Chief Agnes “Sweets' Jacobs, Tribal Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs, Pat Thomas, Senior Club President Lois Thomas, Tribal Chief Beverly Cook, and John Lazore. (second row, from left) Tribal Chief Michael Conners, Rick Hamelin, Tawit Francis, Keegan Thomas, Bula Hill, Pam Brown, Rachel Lazare, Faith “Noonie” Thomas, and Tribal Chief Eric Thompson.