

MOHICAN NEWS

The people of the waters that are never still

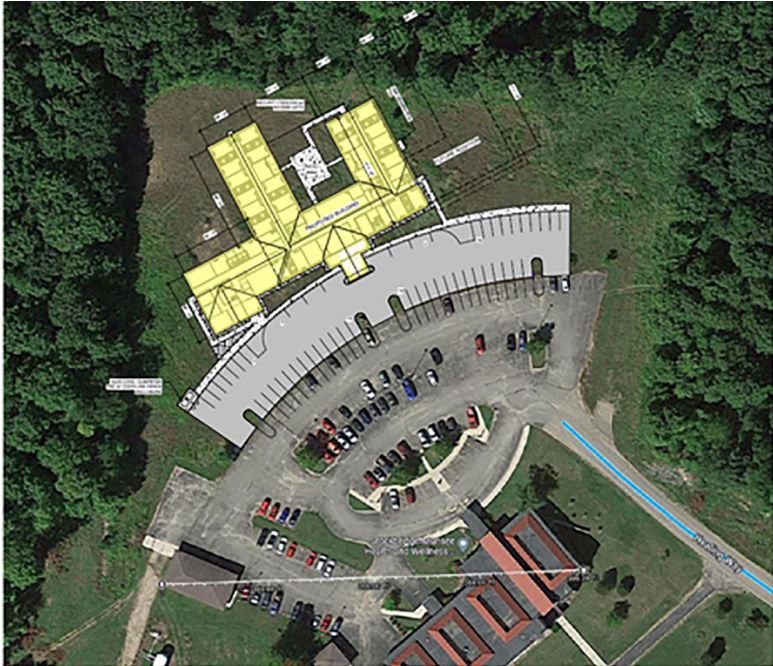
SPECIAL EDITION

N8480 Moh He Con Nuck Road • Bowler, WI 54416

June 1, 2023

Stockbridge-Munsee Community Special Edition

New Ella Besaw Center



Aerial depiction of the new Ella Besaw Center

In July of 2022, the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council signed a contract with Bayland Builders to build a new Ella Besaw Center. The new center will be located across the parking lot from the Clinic. The new facility will consist of 24 residential rooms. Two of these rooms will be double occupancy rooms. In addition to those rooms, the facility will have two hospice rooms on site.

The facility will offer 5 large gathering rooms including a three-season screened in room. Residents also have the option to use the private dining room if they would like to have a meal with visitors or family.

The resident rooms at the new facility are 221 square feet compared to the existing room size of 155 sf. The double occupancy rooms are 260 square feet compared to 179 at the existing facility. The new rooms will include a private onsite bathroom including a shower. The facility will include a large covered main entry with in-ground heat. This will allow residents to enter a vehicle without getting wet and without the risk of slipping on ice.

The new Ella Besaw Center is outfitted with a large area of reinforced walls to act as a tornado shelter on the

Ella B cont on pg Four:

BAYLAND
BAYLAND BUILDINGS

PROPOSED CBRF REMODEL/ADDITION FOR
ELLA BESAW SR. LIVING
CITY, WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF:

SCALE/LEGEND

10000'

Report to the People:



On Saturday morning May 6, 2023 the semi-annual meeting was held at the Tribal offices at 9:00 am. Those in attendance had the opportunity to view and ask questions about a slide presentation that showed the current progress and future projects for the tribe. Tribal Council addressed issues from the expansion of our local garden and its expansion to future infrastructure, like new cell phone towers, housing and buildings, juvenile treatment facility that the tribe is heavily invested in, ongoing food resources for the entire Community and lastly, but probably most importantly for us drivers, are scheduled road improvements. Tribal Council also addressed the tornado from last year and this will be covered in the June 15 issue of the Mohican News.

In regard to agricultural expansion, teaching classes have been incorporated,

seed saving and propagating traditional plants is on the rise, involving the Community through public programs, and the farmer's market are high on the departments to-do list for the upcoming year(s).

In regards to infrastructure the Tribe is building the Ella Besaw Assisted Living Center behind the current Wellness Center. Director Andrew Miller said, "You may have noticed the construction taking place across the parking lot from the clinic. This construction is to build the new Ella Besaw Center. The Ella Besaw Center is an assisted living CBRF (community based residential facility) that provides care for elders who need limited assistance. Construction is scheduled to be completed in late March of 2024. Once completed, the new residential facility will have 24 rooms and two hospice care rooms. This is three

Report cont on pg Four:

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What's Inside?

This Special Edition of the Semi Annual report is dedicated solely to informing Tribal members of the progress for the year. Therefore, there will be no advertisements.



Trust Land is Federally Protected

By the early 1900's, the Stockbridge-Munsee people essentially had zero communal properties held for them. Internal struggles and Acts similar to the Dawes Act had diminished or erased most of the reservation established by the 1856 treaty, which was comprised of two townships, some 46,000 acres. During the 1930's Indian Reorganization Act the Tribe was able to re-establish not only their federal status but was able to secure some small cut over tracts for its members to homestead; most of them being in the township of Bartelme. Lands acquired for the Tribe during this time under the Farm Service Agency (FSA) were not turned over to the Tribe until the mid to late 70's. These properties were the core of the reservation until the onset of Indian gaming provided additional

revenue. The gaming revenues bolstered the Tribes economy and allowed us to offset administrative costs. The Tribe was then able to redirect stumpage dollars, generated from forestry, for Land Aquisition. The Tribe currently has 7,249 acres of properties in Fee status. Fee land is property that is not yet in Federal Trust Status. Trust land is federally protected and considered reservation. Properties purchased by the Tribe are ultimately put into trust, but the process is long. A typical property takes approximately 10 (+) years to go into trust because of opposition by local governments. Applications are scrutinized for accuracy and must be free of encumbrances. Some of the Tribes' fee lands are enrolled in State Forest tax programs and

are not eligible to be applied for until the program expires. The following map shows the break-out of current Trust applications, State Forest tax lands, and Fee lands that are currently being processed for Trust status.

The 1,500 acres of fee land pending submission to the BIA are properties made up of recently expired State Forest tax lands, agricultural lands as well as the Tribes last purchase, the former Konkapot Lodge Hotel (which is being utilized as administrative offices). Applications are put together by the Land Management office in conjunction with the Tribes legal department. A checks and balance system is in place to ensure accuracy prior to submission. This includes title reviews and environmental assessments. Once the applications are compiled

at the departmental level, then Tribal Council passes a resolution before a final copy is submitted to the BIA.

It is at this point local Governments present opposition for taking the land into trust and trigger a series of reviews and appeals. This process is what lengthens the time to take these properties into trust. To date no property has been denied. The appeals have only served to slow it down.

The Tribe has continually maintained that any loss of tax revenue and jurisdictional concerns are minuscule and have been able to show how their own services (ie. road maintenance, impact aid for schools, etc.) will be able to more than cover short falls if any.

Land cont on next page:

The *Mohican News* is published twice monthly by:

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Mohican News welcomes articles, letters, photographs, and any publishable items of interest to Native Americans. All materials to be returned should be accompanied by a return self-addressed envelope with sufficient return postage.

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We welcome your letters to the Editor and the Community.

Community Voices

Letters of opinion can be dropped off at Mohican News in the Tribal Offices or can be mailed to:

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e-mail: mohican.news@mohican.com

Please type your letters or print clearly and include your signature, address, and daytime phone number. Letters must be 500 words or less. All letters are subject to editing and may require confirmation. Some may be rejected due to inappropriate content as deemed by our editorial board. The views of our readers are not necessarily the views of the Mohican News, its staff, or the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe.

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COMMUNITY
Band of Mohican Indians

PUBLISHER:
Stockbridge-Munsee Community

EDITOR:
Jeff Vele

STAFF REPORTER:
Thomas Kazik II

EDITORIAL BOARD:
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Voice: 715-793-4389
Fax: 715-793-1307
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Update from the Land Office

With Indian gaming the Tribe has been able to utilize its stumpage dollars, generated from forestry for land acquisition. The Tribe currently has 7,249 acres of properties in Fee status. Fee land is property that is not yet in Federal Trust Status. Trust land is federally protected and considered reservation. Properties purchased by the Tribe are ultimately put into trust, but the process is long. Some of the Tribes' fee lands are enrolled in State Forest tax programs and are not eligible to be applied for until the program expires. The following map shows the break-out of current Trust applications, Forest tax lands, and Fee lands that are currently being processed for Trust status.

STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE TRIBAL FEE LANDS STATUS

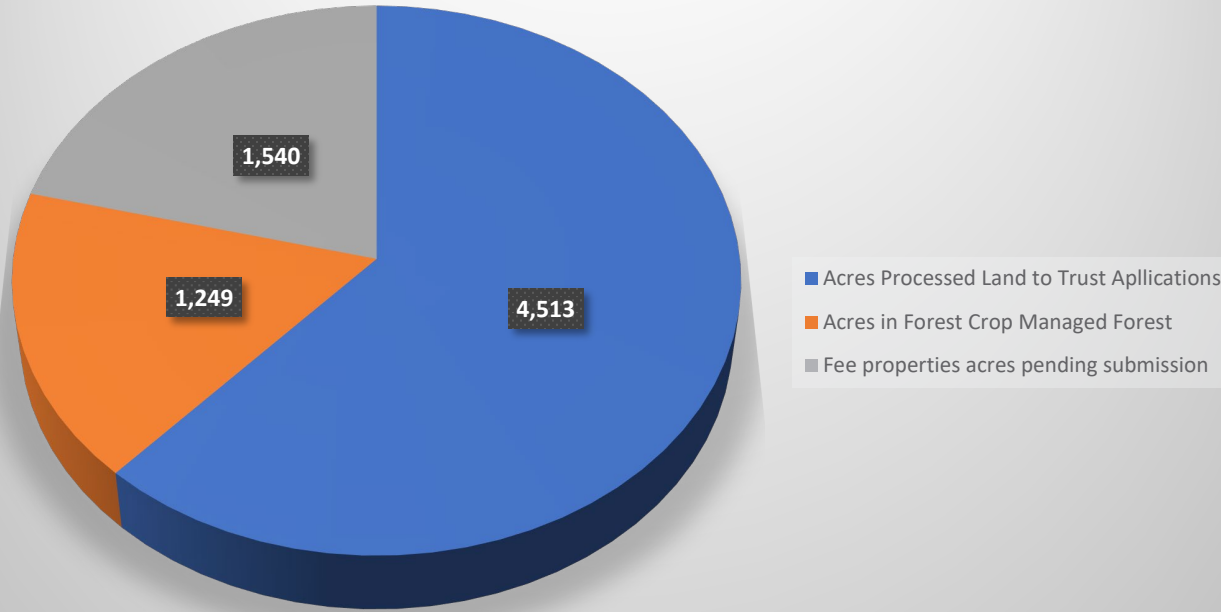
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Although the process is frustrating to both staff and members, the legacy that is land acquisition, the restoring of lands once lost to the community, continues to be a sense of pride for the membership and ensures future generations will benefit from our rich natural resources.

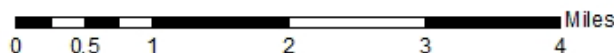
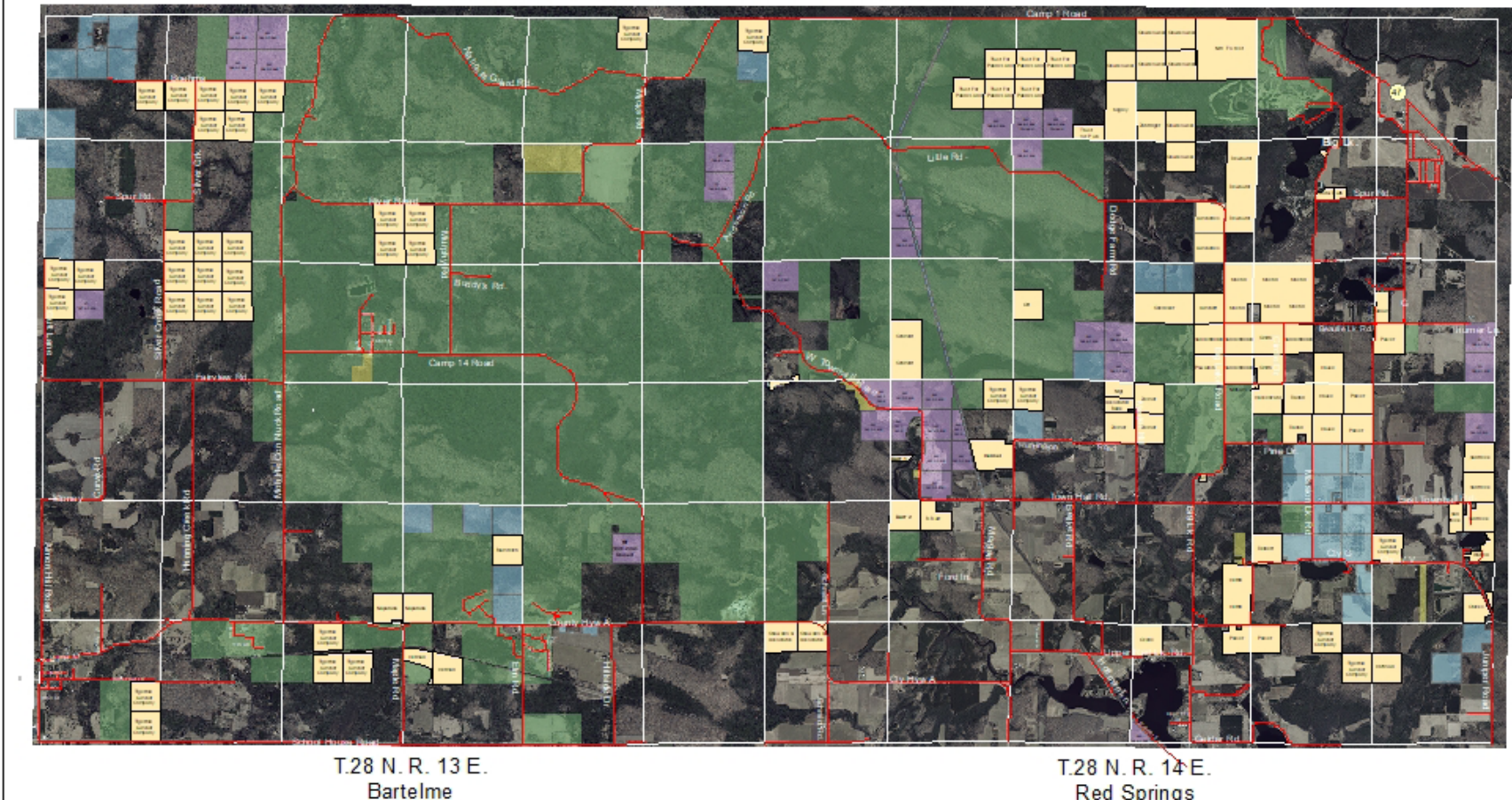
To date the Tribe owns just over one half (25,175 acres) of the original land granted by the Treaty of 1856.

Chad Miller

Land Management Specialist



Stockbridge-Munsee Land Holding 2023 Active Land to Trust Applications



Prepared by SM Land Management
May 2023



Trust Applications

- Trust Apps.submitted (4,512.819 acres)
- Trust Applications Pending (1,540.308 acres)
- Managed Forest / Forest Crop(1,249.167 acres)

NOTE: Total fee acres 7,249.167

Report cont from pg One: times the size of the current Ella Besaw Center. The location near the clinic will offer easy access to healthcare. The new building will provide our elders with a safe home-like environment and allow them to remain socially, culturally, and spiritually involved and maintain their quality of life with family and community”.

Also, in line with infrastructure, the Mohican Family Center has an ambitious expansion planned to include a swimming pool, indoor tract, and plenty of space for other family related and student related activities. The Tribe is also moving forward with the Highway 22 and 29 building by opening Pine Hills 19th Hole Project which will include a golf simulator, full bar and grill and a golf pro shop.

Four new cell towers are being constructed to increase service for the Community. These will be located at the North Star Mohican Casino/Resort, Pine Hills golf course, Townhall Road, Butternut Road and Camp 14 Road near the Family Center. The Information Technology department has also received a grant to provide home based internet services to Tribal members for one year and to provide 165 IPADS for Elders to use for telehealth issues. President Holsey said, “We have received the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Grant this resource will have resounding impact for our tribal nation and our citizens. Native American tribes throughout the United States often lack the critical infrastructure to provide the resources necessary for their communities to thrive. At no point in history was the digital divide in Indian Country more apparent than during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Through the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community is taking a massive step towards closing that digital divide by providing 12 months of free broadband services for 650 Native American households. In addition, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community is providing tablets for the elderly and immunocompromised for telehealth purposes, closing yet another barrier to quality care in the community. The Stockbridge-Munsee Community is so thankful for the assistance provided and the NTIA’s continued commitment to providing essential resources to Native American communities.

According to Land Management Specialist, Chad Miller, with the onset of Indian gaming the Tribe has been able to utilize its stumpage dollars, generated from forestry for land acquisition.

The Tribe currently has 7,249 acres of properties in Fee status. Fee land is property that is not yet in Federal Trust Status. Trust land is federally protected and considered reservation.

Properties purchased by the Tribe are ultimately put into trust, but the process is long. A typical property takes approximately 10 (+) years to go into trust because of opposition by local governments. Applications are scrutinized for accuracy and must be free of encumbrances.

Some of the Tribes’ fee lands are enrolled in State Forest tax programs and are not eligible to be applied for until the program expires.

Housing projects that are on the horizon include small homes for Elderly Housing, general apartment building expansion, housing development in the Township of Red Springs, and a fu-

ture HUD Grant application which will include 13 low income homes, two low income one-bed and two-bed apartment buildings.

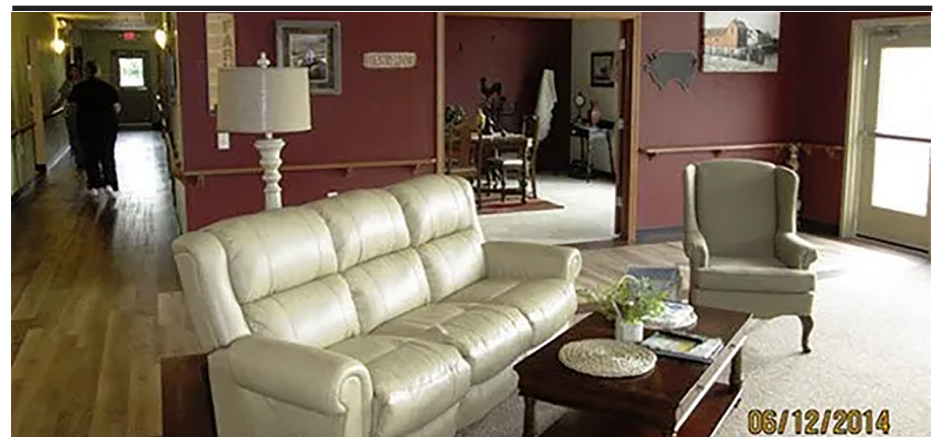
The Stockbridge-Munsee Community in conjunction with all of the Tribes in Wisconsin has been working with Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc to develop a Wisconsin Regional Juvenile Treatment Facility to provide treatment for youth for addictions. The facility will be located in Tomahawk to make the facility accessible to all Tribes in the state. The Stockbridge-Munsee Community values the safety of everyone who lives here. Chief of Police, Mary Creapeau said, “We have four Tribal Officers at this time, leaving us one short currently of a full complement of police officers. One of the officers does boxing at Family a couple times a week. When there are events in the community we try to attend, barring a call. This month we will be celebrating law enforcement week at the end of the month with the Headstart program”.

The Tribe has also allocat-

ed ARPA Funding to continue to provide food resources through the summer. We thank the many departments that have stepped up to bring these resources to the Community.

And finally, in late summer of this year road projects will include resurfacing the parking lot at the Stockbridge-Munsee Health and Wellness Center and a joint project with Shawano County to address County Highway A.

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community will be issuing a special edition next month to commemorate the severe weather event of June 15, 2022. The edition will focus on the response to the storm damage and how the Forestry and Ecology Departments are working diligently to capture the value of the damaged timber while ensuring that harvest activities do not negatively impact other resources. Articles will cover a range of topics including: plant communities, timber harvest, wetland, water, fisheries, and wildlife resources.



Five large gathering rooms will be included in the design Ella B cont from pg One: already begun. During fall of last year, the Stockbridge-Munsee Roads department completed rough grading of the site. Bayland began preconstruction work on April 28th, onsite construction will start with additional grading, erosion control, and utility work to begin in May 1st. The building construction is set to begin May 12th. The building is projected to be completed March 21, 2024.

Regional Juvenile Treatment Facility



The Stockbridge-Munsee Community has been working in conjunction with Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council developing a Wisconsin Regional Juvenile Treatment Facility. The facility will be located in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. The facility will provide treatment services to youth for addictions.

Guiding principles:

Community Engagement: One of the main design intents from the onset of planning and programming has intentionally been the engagement of the community. Space planning centered around the ability to bring the community together.

Nature: Connection to nature through interior courtyard, daylit spaces, and natural light.

Culture of Care: Care delivery with a holistic approach is supported by the built environment. Private rooms, living pods, and the hearth/lounge provide choice and control of the environment.

Flexibility: This design approach features a “kit of parts” which allows for flexibility in staffing, rooming, and operations. The footprint is dictated by the need and demand for services.

The design vision of the facility was the four seasons, nature, fire and water. Honing in on the shared cultural significances related to Earth shared by Indigenous people; while recognizing and acknowledging the unique differences between the Tribal cultures.

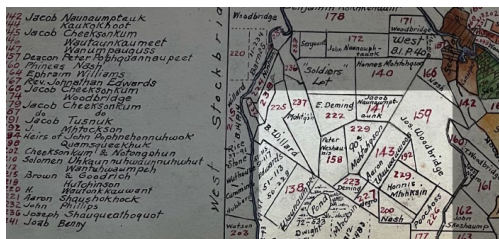


Cultural Affairs Update

Cultural Affairs: State of Massachusetts opened up the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program (MVP) to federally recognized tribes to support climate change resiliency projects. With the recent availability of land on Monument Mt., Cultural Affairs submitted a grant to support the tribe in its acquisition to implement indigenous conservation and restoration methods as a nature-based solution for climate change resiliency. In partnership with the HIST276/Stockbridge-Munsee Community Histories, Presents, and Futures Course at Williams College; students assisted with various projects including StoryMaps to log 8 of 20 new interpretive signage projects in the Homelands that Cultural Affairs consulted on. Phase 2 of the project will use the information to create a travel guide for tribal members interested in planning a family trip to the Homelands.



Interpretive signs



MVP Grant: Monument Mountain



Land Acknowledgements

Library/Museum: Flooding in the basement for the past 10+ years resulting in mold damage to objects stored in the basement. In 2022 the issue has been addressed by the installation of a drainage system, sump pump, dehumidifier and removing mold contaminated items to safeguard other collections. Fortunately, objects of high historic value such as the first bible received by the tribe, baskets, beadwork, and photographs were not impacted as they were originally stored in areas where flooding was not present or were on the main level in the gallery. The basement repairs were funded through donations collected by Cultural



Water Damage in Collections Storage



Water Damage = Mold Damage to Some Objects



French Drain Install

Historic Preservation: Six baskets repatriated from two different families and another from the Berkshire Historical Society, as well as a shell spoon/scoop and pottery from a family in Massachusetts. Stockbridge-Munsee (WI), Delaware Tribe of Indians (OK), and Delaware Nation (OK) joint Reburial of two ancestors completed at Princeton University, New Jersey and installation of Lenape Marker and Memorial Garden. Documentation of historic sites at Papscanee Island and Schodack island is underway by our new THPO Officer, Jeff Bendremer.



Repatriated baskets from local Stockbridge

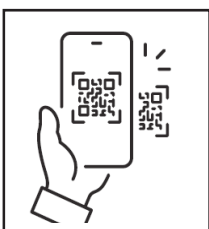


Lenape Sister Nations
Stockbridge-Munsee (WI), Delaware Tribe (OK), and Delaware Nation (OK)



Jeff Bendremer, SMC THPO & Archeologist

Language: The Language Program uses Total Physical Response (TPR) teaching method. To learn more, scan the QR Code below on the left. Mohican Level 1 and Level 2 and Munsee Level 1 learning resources are available on the Quizlet and Kahoot apps. Scan the QR Codes below to download the apps to your phone or tablet and contact Joe.Pecore@mohican-nsn.gov to access interactive language lessons and games. Scan the lessons on the far right to explore a few TRP lessons.



Housing Developments



Small Homes for Elderly Housing Expansion Project

Multiple small homes to be designated for elders.
Located on West Healing Way Drive.
Architectural plan very near completion.
First 2 to begin construction Summer of 2023.

Apartment building expansion

6-Unit Apartment Building
Proposed location in the area of Ah Toh Wuk, near current apartment units.
Architectural plans about 30% completed.
Construction anticipated to start Summer of 2024.

Housing Development— Township of Red Springs

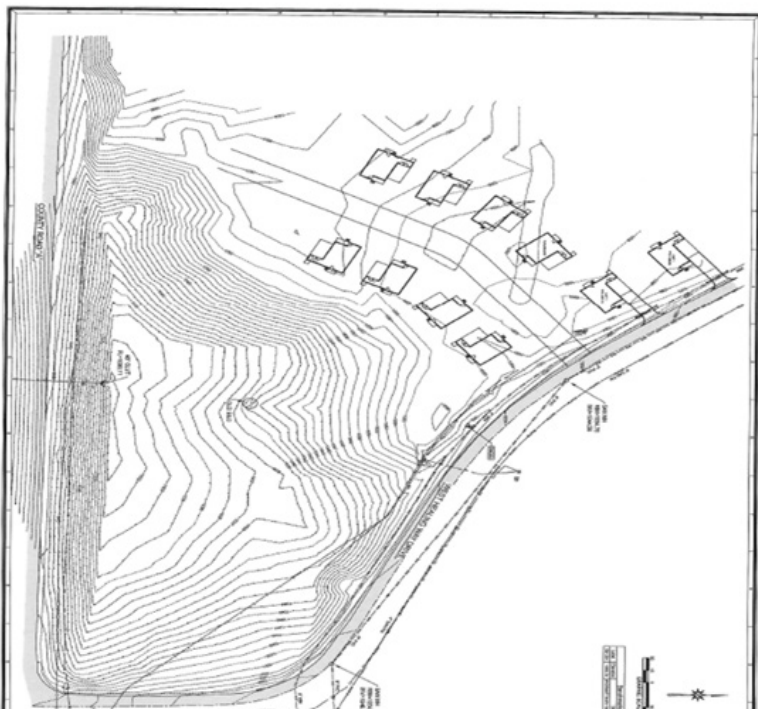
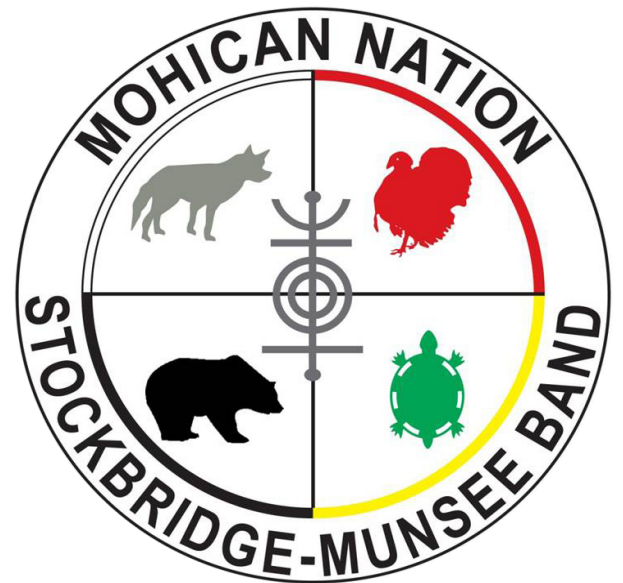
2 Duplex rental units.
Located near the old tree nursery on Mission Lake Road.
Architectural plans about 60% completed.

Township of Red Springs

2 Duplex rental units.
Located near the old tree nursery on Mission Lake Road.
Architectural plans about 60% completed.

Future Grant Application

Application for HUD funding for 5 million dollar construction project
Application to construct 13 low-income homes
Application includes 2 low-income one and two bedroom apartment buildings



Other changes in the works

Pine Hills golf course has seen some changes and have more to come. With a new roof to the clubhouse, and the downstairs starting to transform into a players club, featuring a new 8ft Diamond Pool table with beautiful Predator balls. The Supper Club has been open since April. A new grounds watering system to go with the landscaping work done around the course that can be seen from new golf carts. The largest update along with New Manager Jeff Miller Jr will be the Pine Hills 19th Hole Project. This project will be a Multi-sport golf simulator business located in Shawano, Wisconsin. Featuring: Full bar and grill offering food and beverages. Golf pro-shop. Professional club fittings. 5 state of the art simulator bays; featuring 11 sports and simulation golf courses.



Mohican Family Center Expansion

The Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council has set aside funding to expand the Mohican Family Center.

The expansion will include: Swimming Pool, Indoor Track, Safe space for youth, Healthy Activities, Health Education & Well-Being Info Events and Nutritious Food Choices Education

The expansion will also provide: Designated space for homework and other educational needs - IT and connectivity work space for youth to do homework and Tutors to assist youth with homework and learning assistance.

Collaboration with Bowler Public school to provide teaching staff to assist with homework & other after school activities.



Other Projects in the Works



Mohican Family Center



Pine Hills Golf Course



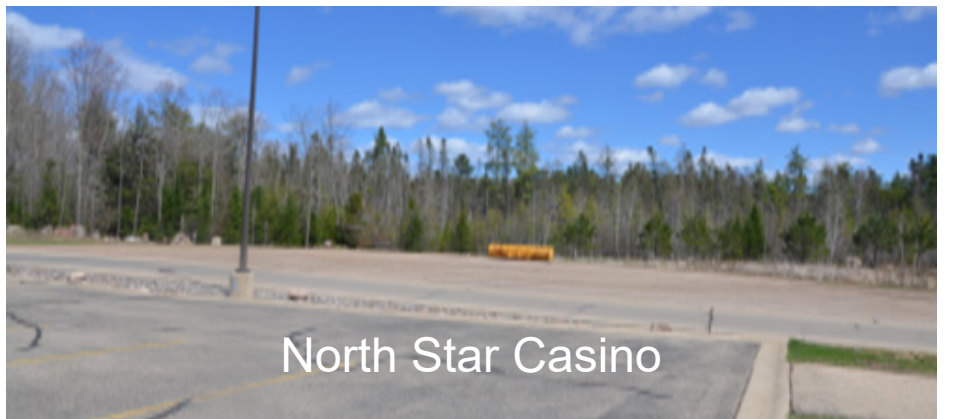
Butternut Rd, Bowler



Town Hall Rd, Red Springs

Cellphone Tower and Broadband Expansion

Four cell towers, 300 feet high, will be constructed to increase service. One system located at North Star Mohican Casino and will bring cell service inside the casino. The other locations are: Pine Hills Golf Course, Townhall Road – Township of Red Springs, Butternut Road – Township of Bartleme, Camp 14 Road – Mohican Family Center



North Star Casino

Future Roads Projects

Late summer 2023 road to Stockbridge-Munsee Clinic and re-surfacing parking lot. Ongoing working with Shawano County on joint project to repair County Road A.



Broadband Grant

We have received the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Grant this resource will have resounding impact for our tribal nation and our citizens. Native American tribes throughout the United States often lack the critical infrastructure to provide the resources necessary for their communities to thrive. At no point in history was the digital divide in Indian Country more apparent than during the Covid-19 pandemic. Through the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community is taking a massive step towards closing that digital divide by providing 12 months of free broadband services for 650 Native American households. In addition, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community is providing tablets for the elderly and immunocompromised for telehealth purposes, closing yet another barrier to quality care in the community. The Stockbridge-Munsee Community is so thankful for the assistance provided and the NTIA's continued commitment to providing essential resources to Native American communities.

Agricultural Expansion

Learning Together—teaching classes on gardening methods, food preservation & beekeeping

In 2022, over 350 have attended the 40 classes taught by community members & the Ag Dept

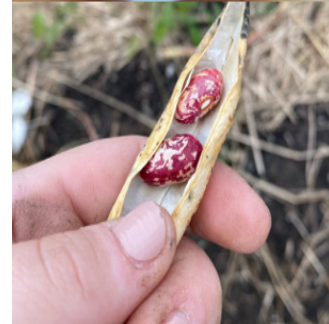
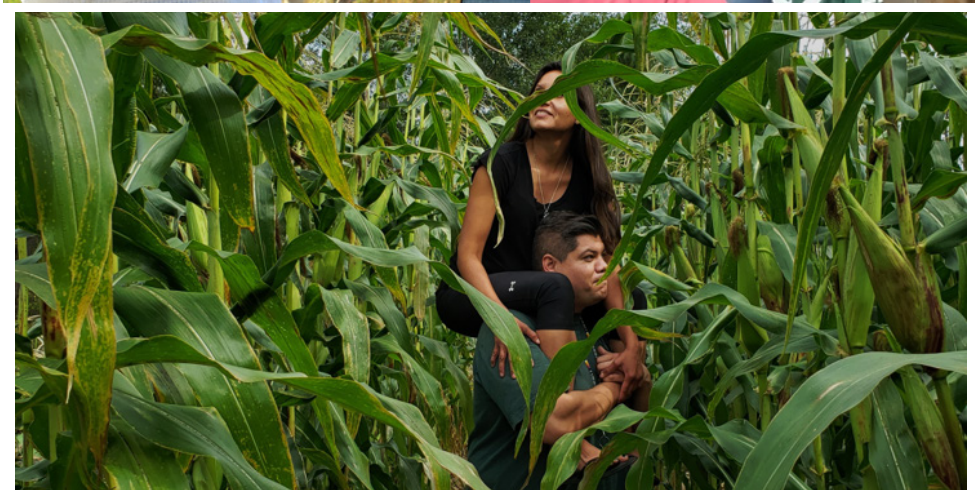
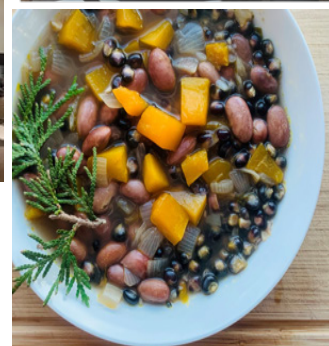
Traditional Foods—REMATRIATING Lenape & Mohican SEEDS

In our seed saving gardens, we have grown 3 varieties of corn, 3 varieties of squash, and 5 varieties of beans and continue to grow a seed bank for the community.

Processing Our Foods community events held to cure, dry, store, seed save & share meals with traditional foods

Continuing to Grow Future expansions the weekly summer farm market will be at the farm in 2023

approved to build a 3rd high tunnel to extend growing seasons planning for a food hub at the farm with space for drying traditional foods



Feeding the Nation



Food security for their people continues to be a focal point of the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council and their staff. On February 21, 2023 the Tribal Council allocated \$400,000 of ARPA funding toward the purchased of food boxes. The Food Distribution staff, Human Services and Mohican Family Center Staff and many other employees began distributing food boxes in April of 2023 and will continue with distribution this food source until September of 2023.

Each month 400 boxes; valued at \$125.00 each, are distributed to enrolled Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Member; one per household.

Distribution starts at noon and continues until all boxes are distributed. The Distribution Site is the Stockbridge-Munsee Food Distribution Center located at N8476 Moh He Con Nuck Road, behind the Tribal Offices. You must present your Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Enrollment Card. One box per household. If you have any questions please contact Jill Duffek, Food Distribution Supervisor at (715) 793-4941.

Remaining distribution dates are: June 13th, July 18th, August 15th, and September 12, 2023.

This is not the first response to Tribal Member's food security. The first was in December of 2020. The Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council responded by allocating \$180,100 of

CARES Act funding for the purchase of 1,800 protein boxes valued at \$100.00 each. The Tribe partnered with Charlie's County Market, a local grocer in Shawano, WI. Food boxes were again distributed June 2021 and ending May 2022. The Stockbridge-Munsee Community distributed 450 Combo Food Boxes monthly; valued at \$100.00 each to Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Members. The Tribal Council used \$540,000 of ARPA funding for the food resource.

The Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe is not just depending on CARES/ARPA funding to meet food demands. Additionally, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community supported the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program Plus (LFPA Plus) proposal and application as lead applicant on behalf of the Great Lakes Intertribal Food System. This opportunity is two-fold. First to expand our community members' access to healthy and traditional foods, which is a high priority. Secondly, sharing opportunities to provide foods for the program among growers and harvesters within our community. The food provided is for Tribal members, 55+ years. The Tribe will be receiving and distributing 150 boxes of fresh, local, indigenously-produced

foods to tribal elders every two weeks, from May 18th, 2023 until December 14, 2023. Distribution starts at 10:00 a.m. until all boxes are distributed. The Distribution Site the Stockbridge-Munsee Food Distribution Center located at N8476 Moh He Con Nuck Road, behind the Tribal Offices.

Distribution dates are: June 15th, and 29th. July 13th and 27th. August 10th and 24th. September 7th and 28th. October 12th and 26th. November 9th and 30th. December 14th.

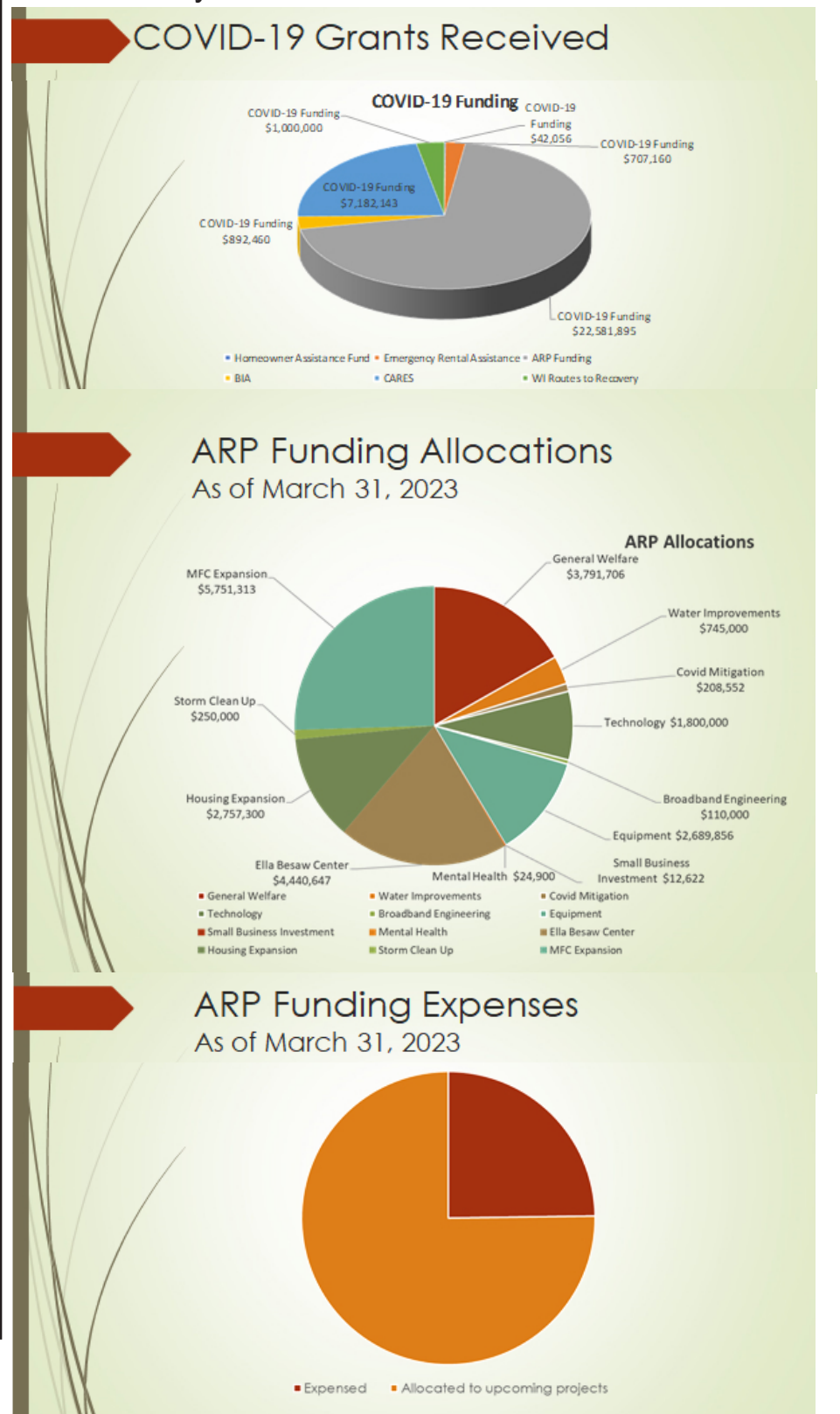
If you have any questions please contact Jill Duffek, Food Distribution Sprvsr at (715) 793-4941.

This project is funded by Feeding America National Organization grant, Feeding Wisconsin Dept of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection ARPA grant and an Intertribal Local Food Purchasing Agreement grant.

Please see the news from the Agriculture Dept. The Tribe is also supporting activities that teach people how to grow and preserve their own food sources.

COVID-19 Financial Information

While we do not normally show our financial information in the Mohican News, these Covid Numbers are being released for your review.



Food Resources Distributions



Tribal Council allocated ARPA Funding towards providing food resources to Tribal Members March 2023 – September 2023.

Food Distribution staff, Human Services Staff and Mohican Family Staff continue to partner with food resources and food sovereignty groups to bring food resources to the community.



Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition