



Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians, 131 Benjamin Drive Moncks Corner, SC 29406

## Wassamasaw Tribe Consolidates Efforts

In order to promote better community cohesiveness, the Varner Town Indian Community Economic, Health, and Cultural Development Council is now an official part of the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians. Heidi Varner now fills a Tribal Council seat so that she can work with the tribal Executive Board to bring services into the community. The Tribal Executive Board will continue to work towards the betterment of the community, and everyone involved feels that this consolidation is a tremendous move in the right direction.

We hope that the consolidation of the Tribe with the community center will strengthen the programs that can be offered as well as heal any divisions within the membership. If any tribal member has recommendation on needed programs, please feel free to voice them at our Executive Board meetings, which occur the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM at the Tribal Office.

### *Upcoming Events in February.....*

**February 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>** – 10 AM at the Tribal Office – Meetings will take place to work on the Tribal Portfolio for State Recognition as a Tribe. All persons interested in helping are welcome to attend.

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Elders Speak/Community Dinner - 2 PM @ the Community Center (white building at the beginning of Benjamin Drive across from Gateway Church). Topic of Discussion: History of Varnertown. Bring a covered dish.

**February 28<sup>th</sup>** – Native American Film Night. 6 PM at the Tribal Office at 131 Benjamin Drive. Popcorn and Drinks will be provided. All are encouraged to attend! Films are 60 minutes each and explore different facets of our culture:

**Miss Navajo** - Each year for the last 54 the Navajo Nation crowns Miss Navajo, a young woman who represents the ideals of traditional values and Navajo culture. Crystal Frazier, 21, lives with her family on the reservation in Table Mesa, New Mexico. She's a tomboy and a little shy, but something about the pageant captures her imagination and ignites a competitive spark. She begins to prepare by working on her talent, studying the language and, of course, figuring out what she will wear. As we follow her path to the pageant, we're introduced to former Miss Navajo winners who discuss what the title has meant to them. Everything culminates in the competition when Crystal meets the other contestants and they prepare to go before the judges. Though Miss Navajo follows a path blazed by other "competition" docs, in the end, it tells the richer stories of the struggle to hold onto a disappearing culture and the bonds that can unite across generational lines. Funny and heartwarming, this film puts beauty pageants into a whole new light.

**Alcatraz Is Not an Island** - Early in the morning on November 20, 1969, 79 American Indians, including students, married couples and six children, sailed to Alcatraz and began the 19-month occupation of the island. Despite the Coast Guard's attempted blockade, the group disembarked successfully. The takeover of Alcatraz brought Indian rights issues to the attention of the federal government and American public, changing forever the way Native people viewed themselves, their culture and their need for self-determination. The Indian occupation of Alcatraz Island from 1969 to 1971 was perhaps the most significant event in the history of US-American Indian relations in the post reservation era. What started out as a publicity stunt to attract attention to the issues and concerns of the Bay Area Indian community, particularly the problems stemming from the government's disastrous Relocation Policy of 1950, soon escalated into a "Pan-Indian" movement with repercussions across the country and into Canada.

**American Holocaust: When It's All Over I'll Still Be Indian** - In 2000, Spirit World Productions produced the internationally critically acclaimed Award –Winning documentary. This powerful, hard-hitting documentary reveals the link between Adolf Hitler's treatment of German Jews and the U.S. government's treatment of American Indians depicts disturbing parallels between these two Holocausts and explores the historical, social and religious roots of America's own "ethnic cleansing." The film also examines, through the words and experiences of contemporary Indian people, the long term lasting effects of this on-going destructive process and the possible ramifications for the future of American Indian people in the 21st century. This documentary is the first and only film that compares Hitler's attempted genocide of German Jews with the U.S. government's treatment of American Indians and the lasting effects on the culture today.

## From The Desk of Lisa.....

The Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians is working to submit our state recognition package for Native American Tribal Status on April 1, 2009. (We currently are recognized as a Native American Group). We are asking all tribal and community members to submit copies of family pictures, church and school pictures from the 1920s – 1960s to aid in documenting the history of our community. All tribal members will be receiving a letter from the Commission for Minority Affairs to confirm their enrollment in the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians. To have these letters notarized free of charge, a day will be set for everyone to meet at the Tribal office. If you do not get the letter, and are informed of this meeting, copies of the letter will be available for you to fill out and have notarized at the Tribal Office. Please see the Tribal Website ([www.wassamasawtribe.com](http://www.wassamasawtribe.com)) for further details. We hope to publish the package information to all members once State Recognition for Tribal Status is gained.

## Nominations Needed for Open Council Position

The Executive Board currently has an opening for a Tribal Council member that will need to be filled in the March Executive Board meeting. The appointed member will be in office until the end of the current term. Letters of nomination for the open council seat will be accepted at the tribal mailbox at 131 Benjamin Drive. You can nominate yourself or someone you know is willing and qualified to fill this position. Qualified nominees will receive a Job Description to ensure they can fill all required criteria.

### Drum Group

Anyone interested in learning to drum, please contact the Executive Board at [wassamasaw@hotmail.com](mailto:wassamasaw@hotmail.com). A group is being formed to meet regularly at the community center to practice and will perform at community

**Charleston City Coupon Books:** \$20.00 each. Contains over \$500 in savings at local restaurants including Hardees, Zaxby's, Applebee's, Wendy's, Captain D's, free oil change, etc.

**T-Shirt Sales:** New Wassamasaw Tribe T-Shirts for Sale, \$15.00 each. Shirts come in Black or Gray. T-shirts are selling quickly so please place your order as soon as possible.

**Koozies:** Wassamasaw Tribe drink holders on Sale for \$5.00 each. Please contact Janie Shumak @ 553-1993 to place your orders

-----**FUNDRAISERS**-----

### Wassamasaw Tribe

#### GED Program:

GED classes start back on Monday, February 2nd. The classes meet every Monday and Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. You must be 17 years old or older to participate. This program is open to anyone wishing to get their GED and is free of charge. Volunteers wishing to assist in tutoring can contact us at [wassamasaw@hotmail.com](mailto:wassamasaw@hotmail.com)

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131 Benjamin Drive

Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Events are always posted online at:

[www.wassamasawtribe.com](http://www.wassamasawtribe.com)

You can reach the tribe by email at:

[wassamasaw@hotmail.com](mailto:wassamasaw@hotmail.com)

For tribal questions, please  
contact: 843.364.7041

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