

July 31st, 2023



MATTAPONI TRIBAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER

Mattaponi Tribal Council Election

A Tribal election was held on the Mattaponi Indian Reservation on July 22nd, 2023, at the Mattaponi Tribal Office. This is the first election held under the new Constitution that was adopted on April 29, 2023. Below are the official Election results:

Chief: Mark T. Custalow

**Assistant Chief: B. Leon
Custalow, I**

Mattaponi Tribal Council members:

B. Leon Custalow, II

Brandon Custalow

Jack Custalow

Malcolm Custalow

Michael (Tony) Waldrop, II

Otho Custalow

Todd Custalow

Open Enrollment

The Mattaponi Petition Office will be hosting an Open Enrollment sometime in September to aid lineal Mattaponi Tribal Citizens with enrollment in the tribe. Our petition office will be posting more information about date and time soon. If you have any questions or need assistance with filling out the enrollment forms, please email our Enrollment Specialist, Olivia Garcia at olivia.garcia@mattaponination.com or call the Petition Office, 804-353-5908. You can also drop by the office Monday-Thursday 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Job Opportunities

The Mattaponi Tribe is hiring a **Tribal Environmental Director** and **Tribal Environmental Manager** for our newly created Environmental Office. This office will assist the Mattaponi Indian Tribe & Reservation to progress forward with our environmental projects/initiatives and assist in reducing environmental threats to our Tribal Community. Please send all resumes to mattaponi@mattaponination.com.

Chrysler Museum of Art

Land Acknowledgement Dedication Friday, July 21st, 2023

The Chrysler Museum of Art acknowledges and honors the Indigenous Peoples traditional stewards of Tsenacommacah, the land on which the museum is located. Chief Mark T. Custalow, Lois Custalow Carter, and Ken Custalow represented the Mattaponi Indian Tribe and Reservation at this event. Chief Mark opened the dedication with an honor song. Several other Virginia Tribes were also represented.



Chief Mark T. Custalow drumming

Submission Details

In order for Tribal Youth Art Contest, all submissions must be submitted by **Friday, August 25th, 2023**. For more information on how and where to submit, please contact the Mattaponi Tribal Office.

Machicomoco State Park

The Machicomoco State Park in Hayes Virginia will be hosting its 3rd Indigenous People's celebration on Saturday, **November 4th, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at Machicomoco this fall. The park has reached out to formally invite citizens of the Mattaponi Indian Tribe to come and enjoy this event and explore the park. The Mattaponi Tribe and Reservation will have an educational booth set up at this event.



We are looking for a youth artist to create a sticker design that represents their idea of how nature is important to them and their tribe.

This art contest is open exclusively to school aged participants who are members of a state or federally recognized Tribe in Virginia. The 1st place candidate will have their design made into a sticker by the park which will be the event giveaway for the 2023 Indigenous Peoples Celebration in November.

Tribal Member Appreciation Day

On Saturday, July 8th we had a Tribal Appreciation Day at the Mattaponi Petition Office. Friends and family gathered for a cornhole tournament and a spread of food. At the end of the night, everyone moved to the top of the hill by the river for a firework show. We wanted to give a thank you to everyone who showed up and contributed to this celebration.



Fireworks on the Mattaponi River



Mattaponi Tribal Citizen, Malcolm Custalow on the Mattaponi River

Tribal Truths Podcast

Recently, the Virginia Humanities highlighted the Tribal Truths podcast which features an episode about Mattaponi Tribal members Malcolm, Calvin, and Dawn Custalow, as well as Chip Langston discussing the dwindling shad population. Other episodes include discussions with the Monacan, Nansemond, and Rappahannock Tribes. You can listen to the podcast online, Apple music or Spotify.

Oral History Interviews

The Mattaponi Petition Office would like to thank everyone who has completed an oral history interview with office staff. These interviews are very useful in helping our petition for Federal Acknowledgement. The petition office will continue to reach out to Mattaponi residents and citizens. If you would like to volunteer for an oral history interview, please contact the Mattaponi Petition Office at (804) 353-5908.

Mattaponi Homecoming

Mark your calendars for the fourth Sunday in August. Please join us on August 27, 2023, for our traditional Homecoming and Revival. We are celebrating 91 years of serving God in the building we have now. Morning worship will be at 11:00 a.m. at the Mattaponi Baptist Church with lunch immediately following on the Church grounds. The afternoon song service will begin at 2:00 p.m. We are looking forward to celebrating with family and friends.



Mattaponi Homecoming circa 1997

Mattaponi Gardens



Mattaponi Citizens, Otho Custalow and Calvin Custalow in their vegetable gardens, and a view of the Mattaponi Tribal Community Garden



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