



MATTAPONI PETITION OFFICE

Newsletter By: Mattaponi Petition Office Staff

2022 POW WOW UPDATE

Due to the rising cases of Covid-19, the 2022 Mattaponi annual Pow Wow will be canceled. The Mattaponi Tribe aspires to share their culture through social gatherings and events. The Mattaponi Tribal Pow Wow has been held for many years on the reservation. Many tribal members donate their time months in advance with organizing and setting up each event. The Mattaponi Tribe looks forward to holding its next gathering soon. You can find updates on any future events on the [Mattaponination.com](https://www.mattaponination.com) website or on the **Mattaponi Indian Tribe & Reservation (Official)** Facebook page.

Mattaponi Reservation Museum & Trading Post

The Minnie-Ha-Ha Educational Trading Post, operated by the family of the late Chief War Horse Custalow and Minnie-Ha-Ha Custalow, will open for business beginning July 16, 2022. The Trading post will be open 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. on Saturdays ONLY. For more information regarding the Mattaponi Trading Post please call, **(804)769-2194**.

The Mattaponi Indian Museum, operated by the family of the late Chief Hos-Ki-No-Wa-Na-Ha Custalow, will be open for visitors and tours during the week and weekends by appointment only. For general information please call, **(804)353-5908**.

Renovations started on the Mattaponi Petition Building

Exciting news! Over the past few weeks there have been several improvements made to the Mattaponi Petition Office (School Building/Tribal Center). Further renovation on the interior and exterior of the Mattaponi Reservation building will continue over the next several months.

Cultural Classes

Samuel McGowan, son of the late Shirley Little Dove McGowan, is the Cultural Program Specialist for the Indigenous People Initiative at the Jamestown Yorktown Foundation and will be hosting cultural classes on the Mattaponi Indian Reservation. Shirley Little Dove was an advocate for the Mattaponi People, and Samuel continues to carry on his mother's legacy by educating others on Native American history. The first class will be held at the Mattaponi Petition Office (School Building/Tribal Center) on June 25, 2022, from 11 A. M. to 12:30 P. M. These classes will provide information on traditional Native American techniques and histories. Some classes may include hands-on experiences such as: basket weaving, traditional handmade tools, carvings, etc. More information will be provided through the Mattaponi Tribe's Facebook page, **Mattaponi Indian Reservation (Official)**, as well as the Mattaponi Tribe's website, Mattaponination.com. This class will only be open to **lineal Mattaponi children and adult members (on and off the Reservation)** who are interested in learning Mattaponi cultural traditions and histories.



Thank You!

The Mattaponi Petition Office as well as the Mattaponi Chief and Council would like to thank the Waldrop Family for entertaining the Mattaponi children over the Memorial Day weekend. The children were able to enjoy a movie night at the School Building featuring the movie, Encanto, with their family and friends. The hosts as well as other movie goers were able to provide popcorn and a good time during this event. The sense of community provided by the Waldrop Family is greatly appreciated, and it is hopeful the Mattaponi Tribe can enjoy more events like this in the future.



Library of Virginia

The Library of Virginia hosted two meetings of Virginia's federally and state recognized tribes on May 18th and 19th, 2022. Members of the Mattaponi Petition Office were invited to attend the Library of Virginia Collaboration meeting on May 19th, along with representatives from 7 Virginia tribes. The Library of Virginia staff included archivists, curators, educators, and their leadership team.

During the meeting, guests viewed materials presented by the Library of Virginia as examples of what might be used in their exhibition and offered their thoughts on interpretation and what may be missing or included from the record. All attendees emphasized the importance of acknowledging the continuing presence of the native people and their efforts to preserve their cultural traditions and languages. Round table discussions took place, and the themes were: The importance of traditional knowledge in interpreting Indigenous documents and history, Paint the full picture and what may be missing, Use of Records and the importance of being vigilant regarding privacy rights, and Sovereignty.

The Library of Virginia representatives noted the Virginia tribes are doing impressive research that will enrich the exhibition, and tribal participants brought tremendous research and knowledge to the table. Next steps: The Library of Virginia staff would like to visit our community and continue to further a relationship with the Mattaponi Tribe and other Virginia Tribes. The Mattaponi Petition Staff will tour and begin researching Mattaponi Indian Tribal collections, and archival activities at the Library of Virginia in the near future.



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