HBMI

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

46th annual Metaksonekiyiak Community Days!

LITTLETON, Maine -- More than 600 people turned out to participate the celebration of traditional ways and ceremonies of the Maliseet people during the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians' 46th annual Metaksonekiyak Community Days Saturday, Sept. 5 and Sunday, Sept. 6.

Formerly known as Recognition Day, the tribe changed the name of its annual gathering in 2024 to place a greater emphasis on the people of its tribe. Metaksonekiyak is Maliseet for "on or along Meduxnekeag River," which perfectly describes the Maliseets and the importance of water to the tribe.

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Community Days

The two-day event, on the tribal lands located on 88 Bell Road in Littleton, began each day with a pipe ceremony in the morning, followed by dancing, drumming, kids games and a variety of food and craft vendors selling everything from native baskets, quilts, mugs, and more.

New this year, was an expanded Bingo tent area to accommodate a larger number of participants, all competing to win a large collection of prizes.

Six drum groups kept the sounds of tribal drums echoing throughout the field for much of the two days. An empty chair was placed alongside the Four Winds drum group in honor of Amy Joseph – a longtime member of the group who passed away in January.

Alan St. Jean and Chris Phillips gave a demonstration on pounding a brown ash log to make splints for basket making.

On Saturday evening, an impressive community meal was offered free to the public, including traditional dishes such as salmon, fiddleheads, fry bread and hulled corn soup, along with barbecued foods. Several hundred people gathered in the Community Center for a time of feasting and fellowship.

Weather finally cooperated this year to allow for an impressive 12-minute fireworks display to take place Saturday evening.

Sunday began with a free community breakfast that fed more than 100 people, before a second day of drumming, dancing and bingo games began.

Another new feature to the Community Days celebration was a lacrosse clinic Sunday afternoon featuring Corey Hinton and brothers Jeremy and Jerome Thompson. Jeremy Thompson is a Haudenosaunee professional lacrosse player from the Hawk Clan of the Onondaga Nation. He plays for the Rochester NY Knighthawks of the National Lacrosse League, and the Atlas of Premier Lacrosse League. He was a two-time Junior College Lacrosse National Champion and was 2nd-team All-American at Syracuse University. Jeremy is also a member of the Haudenosaunee men's national lacrosse team.

Jerome "Hiana" Thompson, Jr. is a Iroquois former professional box lacrosse player from the Hawk Clan of the Onondaga Nation. He plays for the Albany Firewolves of the National Lacrosse League.

Michael Corey Hinton a citizen of the Passamaquoddy Tribe. He was a collegiate player at Colgate and also played on the 2003 Iroquois Nationals U19 team and the 2006 Iroquois Nationals senior squad. Both of those teams competed in World Lacrosse (formerly known as International Lacrosse Federation) championships. Hinton is now an attorney with the law firm Drummond and Woodsum in Portland, and has dedicated his free time to bringing the “Creators Game” back to our Wabanaki Communities.

The tribe’s Community Day committee is already working on new ideas to make next year’s celebration even more spectacular.

Congratulations to our Winners!

Congratulations to our Corn Hole winners for 2026! Caleb Dube (left) and Ronnie McGary!

Earl Little was the winner of our Robert Polchies Memorial Cribbage Tournament.

Congratulations to Randy Folsom (left) and Joe Nason on winning our Horse Shoe Tourney this year!

MALISEET HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER VACANCY

We currently have (2) seats available for the Maliseet Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to be filled.

If interested in interviewing for this position please contact Crystal Tucker, Tribal Clerk at (207) 532-4273 Ext. # 204 or send an email to tribal.clerk@maliseets.com by the close of business on Oct. 16.

MALISEET CEMETERY COMMISSION VACANCY

We currently seeking three Tribal Elders that would like to fill the vacancies on the Maliseet Cemetery Commission. (2) Board Members and (1) Alternate Board Member.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Crystal Tucker, Tribal Clerk at (207) 532-4273 Ext # 204 or send an email to tribal.clerk@maliseets.com by the close of the business October 16th

Tribal Councilors with the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians celebrated the official ground breaking of the Tribe's Foxcroft Road Reconstruction project. Taking part are, from left, Allison Sabattis, Suzanne Desiderio, Crystal Tucker, Beth Ford, Cathy St. John and Tribal Chief Clarissa Sabattis. Not pictured is Joshua Toner.

Foxcroft Road reconstruction project begins with ground breaking

HOULTON, Maine – A major road improvement project, more than a decade in the making, is now coming to fruition.

Foxcroft Road is slated for reconstruction this fall thanks to a collaborative effort between the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, town of Houlton, Maine Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Maliseets held a ceremonial ground-breaking for the project with state, federal and local leaders on Sept. 9 to commemorate the reconstruction.

Foxcroft Road is a state aid road shared with the town that is maintained by the Maine Department of Transportation and the town of Houlton. Reconstruction of the road has been on the Maliseets' radar since 2014, when the Tribe met with state and federal officials to discuss improvements to the road, which serves a major thoroughfare for tribal citizens.

"This project is something we have been anticipating for some time now," explained Tribal Chief Clarissa Sabattis. "We felt that it was important for our community to have a safer way to walk and I can't wait to see it completed. It will change the lives for many of our elders and families who traverse this road."

The project was possible thanks to a $15 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The grant covered costs of engineering, surveys, design, right of way appraisals and acquisition, legal and administration.

According to Tribal Engineer Brian Stewart, a 4.45-mile stretch of Foxcroft Road will be completely rebuilt, from Military Street to the Littleton town line. The existing road, which is 22-feet wide pavement with a 2-3-foot wide gravel shoulder, will be about 4-feet wider, with paved shoulders to allow for greater bicycle access.

In addition, a sidewalk on the westerly side of the Foxcroft Road will be added beginning at Military Street and continuing to the north boundary of Maliseet Riverside Village, for a total length of just under three miles.

Snow removal along the sidewalk is still being discussed between the town and HBMI. According to Stewart, the Tribe has agreed to fund or perform winter maintenance on the sidewalk, depending on which option the town prefers.

Brenda Redwing of the Bureau of Indian Affairs/Rural Transportation was one of several invited guests for the ceremony and praised the tribe for its efforts to get the project off the ground.

"It is such an honor to be here," she said. "It is a project we have been working together on for years and it is so nice to see that it is finally going to be constructed. I can envision the improvements to safety, which are so needed here."

Redwing added one of the strongest selling points for the tribe receiving the grant was seeing a photograph of a mother trying to push a baby stroller along the gravel breakdown lane of the Foxcroft Road.

"To me this project is all about safety," she said. "It will be a much safer road for the entire community."

The Right of Way process included 123 unique parcels of record based on the town of Houlton's Assessors Maps. Easements for right-of-way, grading, drainage or slopes were required for nearly all of these parcels, which has involved over 80 individual landowners, Stewart said.

Sabattis praised Stewart for his "tireless efforts" to see it come to fruition. "I am really proud of all the work Brian has done to get this project off the ground," she said. "It has taken so much effort to get to where we are at now."

Houlton's Interim Town Manager Nancy Ketch said she was pleased the town has been able to collaborate with the tribe throughout the planning process.

"This really has been a long-time coming," she said. "We are so appreciative of being able to partner with you on this project. It's a huge project that will affect so many in the community."

Initial construction will begin in October, with the work this season consisting of setup, clearing and utility location. The excavation, drainage, and grading will commence in early spring 2027 and continue until winter shutdown in 2027. Finished paving and surface restoration will resume in spring of 2028, with completion scheduled for July of 2028.

The current contract for the major portion of construction came in at just over $12 million, with additional bidding expected this winter for a bridge at Smith Brook, included on the route.

The existing Cook's Brook Bridge was designated for replacement by the Maine Department of Transportation, and is scheduled for construction in 2028, Stewart added.

Elders' Meals

October 2026

Elder Center phone # -- 532-7780
Elder Coordinator -- Danya Boyce
Cook -- Mark Lewis

All Meals begin at 11 a.m. at the Elders Center.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1 Beef Stew Beets Biscuits Fresh Fruit	2	3
4	5	6 Baked Pork Chops Potatoes Stove Top Stuffing Green Beans White Bread Molasses Cake	7	8 **Office Closed for Federal Recognition Day** **No Meal**	9	10
11	12 **Office Closed Indigenous Peoples' Day**	13 Taco Tuesday with all the fixings Brownies	14	15 Chicken Patties w/cheese Oven Fries Coleslaw Fruit Salad	16	17
18	19	20 Shepherd's Pie Spinach Rye Bread Cookies	21	22 **BINGO Day** Soup & Sandwich Soup of the Day Assorted Sandwich fixings Dessert Squares	23	24
25	26	27 Spaghetti & Meatballs Green Salad Choice of Dressing Italian Bread Fruit Juice Ice Cream	28	29 Baked Beans Hot Dogs Potato Salad Sadies' Rolls Jello w/Cool Whip	30	31

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

HEATING YOUR HOME

SOCIAL SERVICES ANNOUNCES HEATING HELP

Social Services will begin accepting LIHEAP applications on October 1st. Please note, we will not be able to process the awards until our funding is received. Also, Tribal Elders will receive elder fuel starting in November. All elders must complete an application for LIHEAP in order to receive the elder fuel. Unfortunately, these programs are only for tribal citizens who live in Aroostook County. The Social Services Department would also like to remind you to keep an eye on your fuel tanks and order fuel when you are low. If you run out of fuel and need a delivery on a day that the company is not scheduled to deliver in your area, the company will charge a fee. The Social Services Department can not pay this fee. Call 532-7260 for more information.

COMMON AREAS OF HEAT ESCAPE

Heat typically escapes through poorly insulated areas, gaps, and openings in your home's structure. According to The Washington Post, these are some of the most common culprits:

1. Poorly insulated ceilings, walls, and floors (31%)
2. Windows and doors (21%)
3. Air ducts (15%)
4. Chimneys and fireplaces (14%)
5. Plumbing and wiring penetrations (13%)
6. Electrical outlets and switch plates (2%)

USE CEILING FANS IN WINTER

Ceiling fans can be useful in winter. Most of them have a reverse switch that allows the blades to rotate clockwise. This creates an updraft, pushing warm air near the ceiling down into the living space, potentially allowing you to lower your thermostat setting by a degree or two. This should be especially effective in homes with cathedral ceilings, as heated air can gather too high for you to feel.
To use ceiling fans effectively in winter, set the fan to rotate clockwise at a low speed. Ensure the blades are angled properly (usually about 12 degrees), and always turn the fan off when you leave the room to reduce power usage.

TRUNK Or Treat

OCTOBER 30TH

6:00PM -8:00PM

Maliseet Community Center

568 Foxcroft Rd, Houlton

Join us for a fun family evening with light refreshments & games!

BROOM MAKING WORKSHOP

A TEEN EVENT

Learn the traditional craft of broom making with local handcrafts, natural materials, and a little bit of magic!

BRINGING

The Witchery

FROM SALEM MASS TO YOU

ALL TEENS WELCOME!

OCTOBER 23RD

618 FOXCROFT RD

DATE: September 10, 2026

TO: All HBMI Voting Members

FROM: Honest Ballot, LLC

SUBJECT: General Election Notice

Notice of General Election

The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians has once again retained Honest Ballot to supervise the General Election for expired terms of **ONE(1) TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TERM ENDING OCTOBER 2028.** The election will take place on **Saturday October 31, 2026** at the Maliseet Community Center, located at 568 Foxcroft Road, Houlton ME 04730. Polling hours are open from 9am to 6pm. Honest Ballot (HB), established in 1909, is a company that provides independent, fair and accurate election services to organizations in New York and across the country.

Who is qualified to vote?

Any enrolled member of the Tribe who is 18 years of age or older and resides within the United States is eligible to vote. Prisoners incarcerated shall not be eligible to vote. Persons on parole shall not be deemed prisoners. (Reference-Title III: Voter Qualifications, Sec. 301.)

Eligibility for Office

Any elector is eligible to be a candidate for Tribal Chief, Tribal Council member, or Tribal Representative to the Legislation with exception of (Reference-Title V: Candidate for Office, Sec. 501.):

(a) Anyone who has been removed from office. He/she is ineligible to be a candidate for a period of eight (8) years from date of removal.

(b) A convicted felon

How to Become a Candidate

Any person eligible to hold tribal office may become a candidate by filing with Honest Ballot, no later than **October 1st,** thirty-(30) days prior to election, a nominating petition and notice of candidacy, as provided herein. All Candidates for office must reside within Aroostook County. (Reference: Title V: Candidate for Office, Sec. 501.)

Nominating Petitions may be obtained from the Honest Ballot by one of the following two ways:

- Contact HB directly by phone at **1-800-541-1851 between the hours of 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.**
- **Monday-Friday or**
- Email to elections@maliseets.com

Nominating Petition for Tribal Representative

To be valid a nominating petition for the office of Tribal Representative to the Legislature must be signed by at least fifteen (15) qualified voters who are not candidates themselves. A qualified voter may sign more than one petition. (Reference: Title V: Candidate for Office, Section 502, E.)

Candidates to Accept Nominations

All nominating petitions shall be signed by the candidate nominated, stating in substance, as follows (Reference: Title V: Candidate for Office, Section 502, F):

I, _____, hereby accept the nomination for the office of (Tribal Chief of the Tribal Council/Councilman/Tribal Representative).

Absentee Voters

Any elector duly qualified to vote under Section 301 of the Tribal Election Ordinance, unable to vote in person may request an absentee ballot by a written request to Honest Ballot that he/she expects to be absent from Houlton, Maine on the day of the election, who is the resident of another state, or who is physically incapacitated so as to be unable to go to the polling place, or who is a member of the United States Armed Forces stationed away from Houlton, Maine, may vote by absentee ballot. (Reference: Title VI: Absentee Voting)

How to Obtain an Absentee Ballot

An elector, eligible to vote by absentee ballot, must request an absentee ballot from Honest Ballot LLC, no later than **October 11, 2026** in one of two ways:

- By mail to Honest Ballot, 27246 Grand Central Parkway, Floral Park, NY 11005
- Email to elections@maliseets.com

All voted absentee Ballots must be received by close of business (4:30 P.M.) **Friday, October 30, 2026.** the day prior to the election.

A list of candidates will be posted on October 5, 2026 at the Administration, Health Clinic, Social Services, Community Center, Head Start, Elders and Housing Authority offices. The list of candidates will also be posted on the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Facebook page.

The Center for Wabanaki Research, Knowledge, and Innovation presents a

Photovoice Research Project Exploring Pain, Healing, & Recovery

Project Overview

We invite Wabanaki community members in substance use recovery to share their experiences through photography and storytelling. Your voice can help promote healing centered culturally informed care.

This research project will occur from October to November, 2026 at 16 Central St. Bangor, ME.
Participants will be compensated for their time.

What is Photovoice?

- A community based research method combining photography and storytelling
- Participants use photos to share their experiences, perspectives, and ideas for change
- This project explores how Wabanaki community members in recovery understand pain, healing, and recovery

Am I eligible?

- Wabanaki community member
- 18 years or older
- In substance use recovery

Interested or have questions?

Call or email Nikki Iozzia at (207) 352-3858 or niozzia@wabanakiphw.org for more information

This study #2025-N0526 is approved by RAND Human Subjects Protection Committee.

WHICH PROGRAM IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

DID YOU KNOW OUR MALISEET COMMUNITY HAS TWO SEPARATE FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS? HERE IS A QUICK BREAKDOWN TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHICH ONE TO USE AND HOW THEY DIFFER:

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

496 North St.

·What it is: A federal program providing a full monthly "basket" of USDA foods (meats, produce, grains, and dairy).

·Who qualifies: Income-eligible households living in Aroostook County (Tribal households anywhere in the county; non-Tribal households living on reservation land).

·The SNAP Rule: You **CANNOT** receive both USDA Food Distribution and SNAP in the same month. You must choose one or the other.

·How to apply: Pick up an application packet Monday–Thursday (7 AM – 5 PM) or call 207-532-8919 to have one sent to you.

Maliseet Tribal Food Pantry

13-2 Clover Circle

· What it is: A local, supplemental pantry providing groceries and traditional cultural foods.

· Who qualifies: Open to the general Maliseet Tribal Community.

· The SNAP Rule: You **CAN** use this pantry even if you receive SNAP (Food Stamps).

· How to use: Stop by Tuesdays or Wednesdays (8 AM – 4 PM). For Elder home deliveries (Thursdays), call 207-694-5254 a day ahead.

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 COMMUNITY BINGO & VIGIL NOON	5 TREE LIGHTING 5PM	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 DVAM THEMED SUNCATCHERS 5PM	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 TRUNK OR TREAT 5PM	

COME JOIN THE MALISEET ADVOCACY CENTER
TO RAISE AWARENESS
FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

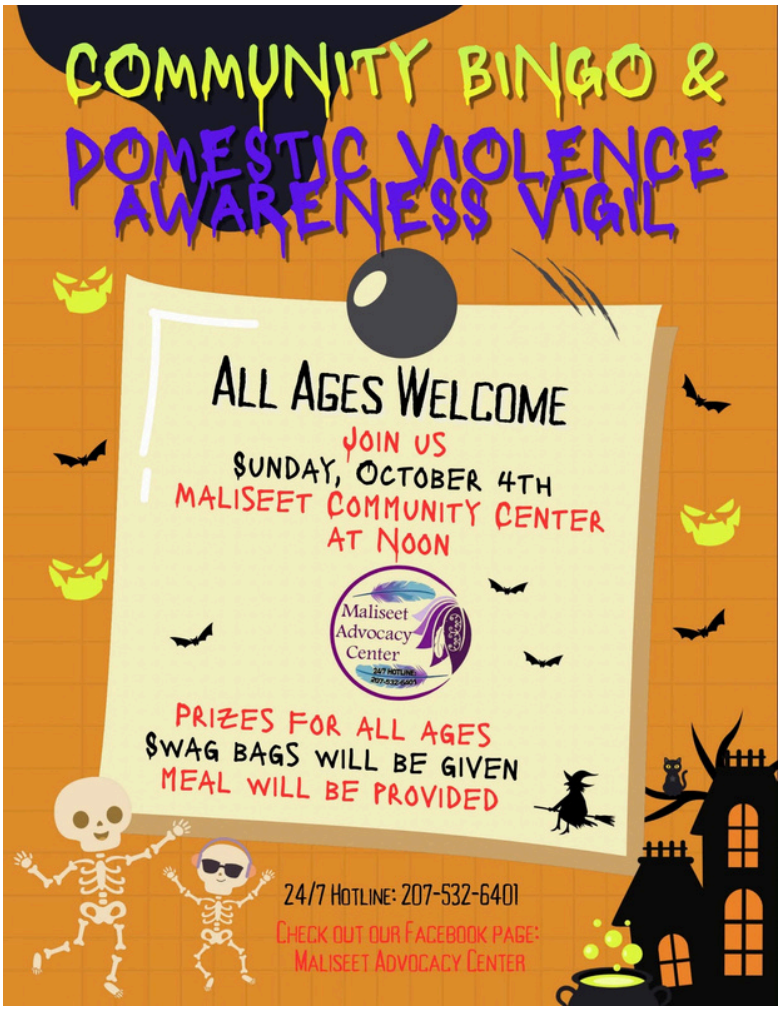
EVENT DETAILS

10/4-COMMUNITY BINGO & VIGIL
MALISEET COMMUNITY CENTER
STARTING AT NOON
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!!!
MEAL IS PROVIDED

10/5-TREE LIGHTING
MALISEET ADVOCACY
CENTER 5PM-6:30PM
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!!!

10/16-DVAM THEMED
RESIN SUNCATCHER CLASS
MALISEET COMMUNITY CENTER
5PM-8PM
MEAL IS PROVIDED
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
CALL 207-532-6401

10/30-TRUNK OR TREAT
MALISEET COMMUNITY CENTER
5PM
COME VISIT OUR TRUNK
FOR CANDY
AND NON-PERISHABLES



WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Maliseet Advocacy Center would like to invite you to participate in a support group for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and sex trafficking. This group is FREE, SAFE, NON-JUDGEMENTAL and CONFIDENTIAL.

The evening includes time to receive support and give support as well as engage in fun activities like beading, shawl making, sewing, etc.

MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED
BI-WEEKLY
TIME: 5PM TO 8PM
CALL HOTLINE FOR LOCATION

FMI: CALL US ON OUR 24/7 HOTLINE:
207-532-6401

Check out our Facebook page: Maliseet Advocacy Center