



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

## RAPID RIVER NEWS

Mdaamin Giizis

October 25 2016

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#### ***A NOTICE FROM HUMAN RESOURCES***

LRBOI Tribal Government has opportunities for temporary work assignments in both its Member's Assistance Department and Human Resources Department. Persons that have intermediate computer skills and office experience are sought to fill these temporary assignments. Positions will receive training once selected.

Please be aware that other departments may exercise the option to hire a temporary employee as needed, and will review the applications on file from those seeking a temporary appointment. Temporary appointments can work up to 29 hours per week. If you are interested, please file an application with Human Resources. You can obtain an application by contacting HR at (231) 398-6859, or via email to [jobs@lrboi-nsn.gov](mailto:jobs@lrboi-nsn.gov).

Hey, where was this last week?

So I am not saying this is not important, but I am saying I was a touch busy with other items and didn't get to the Rapid River News for which you have my sincerest apology.

I'll try to do better.

**Elders' Conference and Christmas Party  
Announced**

Greetings from the Ogema

Aanii:

The Fall season has arrived and our 2016 Fall Membership Meeting was held on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Prior to the meeting, on Friday evening, the Tribal Council held a Meet and greet just prior to the Ogema's regularly scheduled Meet and Greet.

The primary topics were regarding the changes to the Casino Board of Directors, the Casino revenue, the recent changes to the LRBOI Constitution and election procedures.

At the Membership meeting, two departments gave presentations; Gary Lewis gave a presentation on his department, Utilities. Diane Lonn gave a presentation on her department, the Enrollment Department. I want to thank both of them for the great presentations.

Also, a presentation on our newly acquired business, Pleva International, was given by Jeanie Gibson of the Economic Development Department, who did a great job along with Pleva President, Cindy Weber explaining the business to the membership. More information on the business are in this edition of Currents.

Our Muskegon Casino Project continues to move forward along with our Odeno housing development project, on our recently acquired Fruitport Schools property. This is an economic development project with about 300 houses due to start next year.

I recently traveled to Mt. Pleasant along with Councilor Gary DiPiazza to attend the Governor's Summit with Michigan Tribes at the Soaring Eagle Casino. Two primary topics from LRBOI were the Indian Tuition Waiver, and the belief that it should be fully funded by the State of Michigan. The other topic shared by all tribes was support or the Standing Rock pipeline project. The hottest topic was the pipeline at the Mackinaw Bridge, known as Enbridge Line 5. This line was installed when the Mackinaw Bridge was built and has exceeded its line expectancy. Tribes are calling for it to be replaced as any leak could have a devastating effect.

After the Mt. Pleasant Meeting, I traveled to Washington DC to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> and final White House Tribal Nations Conference with President Obama and the many Untied States tribes. National Congress of American Indians, NCAI, thanked the President and gifted him with a ceremonial blanket. NCAI President, Brian Cladoosby thanked President Obama and presented the blanket.

Until next month... enjoy this Fall season.

**THE OFFICE OF THE OGEMA HAS ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING DATES FOR THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSURE:  
BEGINNING DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> AT NOON THRU MONDAY JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2017**

Government Offices will be closed, as granted by the Ogema's Office, during the time of the Christmas Holiday. The Health Clinic, CHS/EHAP Offices and Maajiidaa Fitness Center will be closed during that time.

Health Operations is asking all of our clients/patients to plan ahead; we encourage you to **check your prescription bottles for refills now, to see if the anticipated refill dates of the medications you may need falls during the closure. If you will need a refill during the closure, please notify the Clinic Office BEFORE DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>.**

If you WILL NEED A PHYSICIAN TO WRITE A SCRIPT TO REFILL A MEDICATION (30 day supply *only* medications for example) please contact the Health Clinic **no later than Friday December 9<sup>th</sup>** so your request for refills can be processed **BEFORE** the holiday closure. **Do not wait until the last minute to call.** This will prevent you from running out of your medications during the holiday closure.

If you WILL NEED PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FOR AN ONGOING MAINTENANCE MEDICATION REFILL please notify CHS/EHAP **BEFORE DECEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>** so your medication purchase orders can be sent to your pharmacy **BEFORE** the holiday closure. The purchase orders will be dated for the due date of the medication, **not the date it is sent.** In other words, the prescriptions will be authorized to be filled when they are DUE, not earlier than that time.

If you WILL NEED A SPECIALTY MEDICAL VISIT OR PROCEDURE APPROVED WITH PROPER PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN (CLINIC) COORDINATION AND REFERRAL, please contact the CHS/EHAP offices no later than Friday December 16<sup>th</sup>; the purchase order will be sent to the provider for the date of anticipated service visit.

There will be **NO** staff available in Health Services beginning at Noon on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. We will return to the office on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 at 8:00 am.

If you have a **MEDICAL EMERGENCY** during the office closure; go to your nearest Emergency Room or call 911.

If you need **EMERGENT/URGENT MEDICAL CARE FOR ILLNESS** during the office closure; go to your nearest Emergency Room or Urgent Care Clinic.



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Election Board  
2608 Government Center Drive  
Manistee, MI49660  
Phone(231)723-8288

## Announcement of General Election

**Date of Election :** April 28, 2017

**Offices to be Elected:** Office of Tribal Council- Nine County District (two seats)  
Office of Tribal Council- At Large District (one seat)  
Office of Tribal Council - Outlying (two seat)  
Office of Election Board- (three seats)  
Office of Appellate Judge- (one seat)

### **Procedures for Establishing Candidacy**

*For Candidates for the Office of Tribal Council-Nine County District, At-Large and Outlying District.* To run for the Office of Tribal Council in the Nine County District, At-Large District and Outlying district, a Tribal Member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar below.

*For Candidates for the Office of Election Board.* To run for the Election Board, a Tribal Member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar below.

*For Candidates for the Office of Appellate Judge.* To run for the Office of Appellate Judge, a Tribal Member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar below.

### **Election Calendar**

Declaration of Candidacy Packets available .....	October 3, 2016
Declaration of Candidacy Packets due .....	October 28, 2016
Background Checks Certified .....	November 30, 2016
Slate of Candidates certified .....	December 12, 2016
Last day to withdraw candidacy .....	December 19, 2016
Ballots mailed out for Primary Election .....	January 13, 2017
Ballots due and Primary Election Day .....	February 10, 2017
Primary election recounts, disputes, challenges .....	February 17, 2107
Deadline for Withdrawal of Candidate after Primary Election .....	February 27, 2017
Ballots mailed out for General Election .....	March 24, 2017
Ballots due and General Election Day .....	April 28, 2017

Deadline for General Election recounts, disputes, challenges .....May 5, 2017  
Deadline for General Election campaign financial report ..... May 5, 2017



The Primary Election will be conducted by secret mail ballot. The homes of registered voters shall be designated as polls for voting purposes. You must be a registered voter with current mailing information on file with the Enrollment Department to receive a ballot. The ballot counting will be held in the Lodge at the Government Center, 2608 Government Center Drive, Manistee, MI. Ballot counting process begins at 12:00 .pm.

The General Election will be conducted by secret mail ballot and central polling place. The homes of registered voters shall be designated as polls for voting purposes. You must be a registered voter with current mailing information on file with the Enrollment Department to receive a ballot. The central polling place will be located in the Lodge at the Government Center, 2608 Government Center Drive, Manistee, MI. The hours for the polling place will be 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. The ballot counting will also take place in the Lodge and the counting process begins at 12:00 p.m.

A copy of the Election Board Office Hours has been included in this mailing and will be from October 3, 2016 through October 28, 2016.

If a candidate wishes to have their photograph and biography included in the Special Election Newsletter, the candidate must include the photograph and biography in their candidate packet.

The Tribal Constitution has recently been amended by a vote of the Membership. The Election Board will be posting revisions to the Chapter 3 and 4 Election Board Regulations to reflect the Constitutional amendments. If enacted, these changes to Chapter 3 and 4 will be in effect for this election.

One of the Constitutional changes is that the Election Board is required to perform background checks for the positions of Tribal Council, Tribal Ogema, and Tribal Judiciary. The background check paperwork must be filled out and turned in with your Declaration of Candidate Packet along with a fee to cover the cost of the background check service. The Election Board is researching check services and the amount of the fee will be included in the Candidate Packets. Only cash and money orders will be accepted.

**Please note:** In accordance with the Election Board Regulations Chapter 2, section 19d): "If Voter Registration Form is not received by the Election Board 60 calendar days before an election, the eligible voter will not be registered to vote in that election."

**Last day to register to vote for the Primary Election is December 13, 2016. Last day to register to vote for the General Election is February 27, 2017.**

The Election Board is not responsible for the failure of an Eligible Voter to complete the registration requirements by the prescribed deadlines.

Registered Voters are responsible for maintaining their current physical/ mailing address with the Enrollment Department. Ballots will be mailed to the address on file in the Enrollment Department.



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
 2608 Government Center Drive  
 Manistee, MI 49660  
 Phone (231) 723-8288

## ELECTION BOARD

Recent amendments to the Tribal Constitution change the composition of the Tribal Council. Prior to these amendments, the Tribal Council seats were allocated as follows :

- Six of the members were elected by Tribal Members residing in the Nine-County area. The Nine-County area is made up of Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa, and Wexford Counties.
- Two of the members were elected by all of the Members of the Tribe. These Council seats are known as "At-large" seats.
- One of the members was elected by Tribal Members living outside the Nine-County area. This seat is known as the "Outlying" seat.

The proposed amendment would change the composition of the Tribal Council as follows :

- Four of the Council seats will be elected by Tribal Members residing in the Nine-County area.
- One of the Council seats will be At-Large.
- Four of the Council seats will be elected by Tribal Members residing in the Outlying area.

Another way to say this is that two Nine-County seats are being changed to Outlying seats, and one At-Large seat is being changed to an Outlying seat.

The Election Board is charged with implementing this change. This includes determining when the seats should be switched, and in what order.

In rules that are being posted this month, the Election Board has decided to make the changes in two steps. First, one Nine-County seat that is up for election will be switched to an Outlying seat in the 2017 General Election. Then, one Nine-County seat and one At-Large seat that are up in the 2019 General Election will be switched to Outlying seats. The following graphic shows how this will work :

Tribal Council Seats Up for Vote in 2017 Election		
Current	Change	New
3 Nine-County seats	(-1)	2 Nine-County seats
1 At-Large seat	0	1 At-Large seat
1 Outlying seat	+1	2 Outlying seats

<b>Tribal Council Seats Up for Vote in 2019 Election</b>		
Current	Change	New
3 Nine-County seats	(-1)	2 Nine-County seats
1 At-Large seat	(-1)	0 At-Large seats
0 Outlying seats	+2	2 Outlying seats

The Election Board's main reason for implementing the change in this way is so that there will be two Nine-County seats and two Outlying seats up in each future election. If the At-Large seat was switched to Outlying in 2017, then there would be three Outlying seats up in one election and one Outlying seat up in the next election, with this pattern repeating in future elections. Instead, there will be two Nine-County seats and two Outlying seats up in each future election. The lone At-Large seat would be up once every other election, just as the lone Outlying seat is now. The following graphic illustrates the new pattern:

<b>Tribal Council Seats Up for Vote in 2021 Election</b>
2 Nine-County seats
1 At-Large seat
2 Outlying seats
<b>Tribal Council Seats Up for Vote in 2023 Election</b>
2 Nine-County seats
0 At-Large seat
2 Outlying seats
<b>Tribal Council Seats Up for Vote in 2025 Election</b>
2 Nine-County seats
1 At-Large seat
2 Outlying seats
<b>Tribal Council Seats Up for Vote in 2027 Election</b>
2 Nine-County seats
0 At-Large seat
2 Outlying seats

# October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 10-1 – Manistee 11-2 - Muskegon	4 11-2 - Manistee	5	6 11-2 - Manistee	7	8
9	10 10-1 – Manistee	11	12	13 11-2 – Manistee	14 11-2 – Manistee 11-2 - Muskegon	15
16	17 10-2 – Manistee 11-2 - Muskegon	18	19	20 11-2 – Manistee	21 11-2 - Muskegon	22
23	24 11-2 – Manistee	25 11-2 – Muskegon	26	27 11-2 – Manistee	28 11-5 – Manistee 11-2 - Muskegon	29
30	31					

## EVENTS

Anishinaabemdaa simply means “Let’s speak our language, Anishinaabemowin”. This face book page is related to the website. We thought that we would try to do this on face book. Many indigenous people are on face book from all over North America. Many use the language whenever they can. We want to post phrases, teachings, stories, short lessons and a suggestion post, so if there is anything specific that you wish to learn, just let us know. We will also help out with the spelling of our language.

This face book page is designed to be of service to the public. Our website serves many thousands of people here in North America and we do get traffic from other parts of the world. Many schools, colleges and universities use it on a regular basis.

## OFFICE CLOSURE OVER HOLIDAYS

The Ogema has issued a closure for the Tribal Offices over the Holidays. Please note the following dates:

OFFICES WILL CLOSE ON DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> 2016 AT NOON AND WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> 2017.

Please conclude all needed appointments and other business items BEFORE the closure.

## HOUSING DEPARTMENT:

The Tribally funded Down payment and Closing Cost

Assistance program has been funded for this year, 2016.

Tribal Citizens can receive up to a combined maximum of \$5,000.00. The combined maximum is based on 2.33%

for the down payment assistance up to \$3,500 and 1.00%

for closing cost assistance up to \$1,500. The assistance

is calculated on the total purchase price and the eligibility criteria highlights are as follows.

1. Must be an enrolled member of LRBOI.
2. Must be at least 21 years old.
3. Must not currently own a home/residence.
4. Residence must be the borrower's permanent primary residence.
5. Must not have previously accessed funds under this or any other Tribal program that provides down payment and closing cost assistance.
6. Must be a single family residence.

If you are interested please contact Chad Gehrke in the Housing Department at 231-398-6878 or [cgehrke@lrboi-nsn.gov](mailto:cgehrke@lrboi-nsn.gov).

## INTERNSHIP and CAREER STUDIES ANNOUNCEMENT:

Two programs are now available to help LRBOI Tribal Members and LRBOI Descendants acquire skills and knowledge to prepare for their future careers at LRCR.

**What:** Two different work programs are available, an INTERNSHIP PROGRAM and a CAREER STUDIES PROGRAM, with a limited number of positions available in each program.

**Who:** LRBOI Tribal Members and LRBOI Descendants, 18 and older, are eligible to apply.

**When:** 12 week paid program begins after approval process.

**Where:** there are TEMP positions open in both Members Assistance and HR. We are looking for Administrative Assistant temporary assignees right now. Up to 29 hours per week. Submit application and resume to [jobs@lrboi-nsn.gov](mailto:jobs@lrboi-nsn.gov) Various Departments at Little River Casino Resort.

**How:** Submit application and then undergo interview process to be approved.

### INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

for Tribal Member and Descendant college students, in association with the internal internship programs that are available from their specific colleges.

### CAREER STUDIES

PROGRAM – for Tribal Member and Descendant NON-college students. This program is not for college credit, and the process is managed entirely within LRCR.

FOUR positions are available in each program. Eligible applicants must submit all required documents to be considered.

Applicants must pass all pre-employment screening processes required for all newly hired employees. Application packets are available upon request. Contact: Sandy Mezeske, Executive Administrative Assistant Tribal and Organizational Development Department of Little River Casino Resort [sandym@lrcr.com](mailto:sandym@lrcr.com) 1-231-398-4029

# Enrollment Notices and Notes

The Enrollment Department would like to remind Tribal Members that the qualifying period to sign up or cancel the **Voluntary Federal Income Tax Withholding** from your Per Cap payments is October 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. 15% federal income tax will be withheld from each payment if a Member decides to sign up. Once a Member volunteers to the withholding or cancels, it shall be permanent until April of the following year.

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We would also like to remind Tribal Members that **Direct Deposit** is available for your PerCap payments. This will ensure that you get your payment on the day the payment is made. For direct deposits forms to be valid your address must be up to date with the Enrollment Department. Please make sure your routing/account numbers are correct with your financial institution before submitting a form. Remember this form has to be notarized and must be submitted 30 days before the payment date.

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We recently did a mailing on **Bereavement Beneficiary forms and Per Cap Beneficiary forms**. These forms designate who you want the \$7500 Bereavement Benefit and last Per Cap payment to be paid to. Both of these form have to be notarized. If there is no form on file the distribution of funds will be determined by the Tribal Court.

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If you have any questions or would like one of the forms mailed to you please contact the Enrollment Department. We can be contacted by calling toll free at (888) 723-8288 or can be contacted directly at (231) 398-6712 for Diane, (231) 398-6713 for Jessica or (231) 398-6720 for Merri. All of the forms are also available on the website.



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Elders Committee

**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
ELDERS CONFERENCE**

**THEME: HEALTH FAIR**

**Held at Event Center &  
Conference Rooms**

**Hotel Reservations may be made by calling:**

231-723-1535 or  
888-568-2244

Ask for the Elder Conference Block and provide your Tribal I.D.  
Number to book your room.

**Saturday, November 5, 2016**

- Lunch at 12:00 p.m.
- Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, November 6, 2016**

Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.

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**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
ELDERS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Little River Casino Resort Event Center**

**Saturday, December 3, 2016**

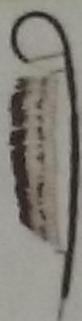
- Lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Items for the voluntary gift exchange may be labeled  
MAN OR WOMAN and placed on the tables provided.

"HONORING ALL OGICHIDAAG"

# VETERAN'S DAY POWWOW

CALLING ALL STAFFS, VETERANS,  
SINGERS AND DANCERS!



Friday, November 11

Harbor Springs High School Gymnasium

*FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC*

Feast @ 5:30pm, Please bring a dish to pass

Grand Entry @ 7:00pm (Head staff TBA)

DONATIONS ACCEPTED & SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO SUPPORT STANDING ROCK

*Currently seeking donations/sponsors, SPECIALS WELCOME*

*Craft Vendors Welcome, booth fee is donation or item*

*[Spaces are limited/Bring your own table(s)]*

Current sponsors Harbor Springs Schools & Petoskey Schools Title VII Programs  
For sponsor information, vendor sign up & questions call RJ Smith (231)526-4835