

2 | NOVEMBER 2025 KALIHWISAKS

# From the Kali

Shekóli Swakwe\*kú. To those that have served in the past, are currently serving, or will serve in the future, I extend a firm handshake to express heartfelt appreciation for your bravery, heroism, and the sacrifices you've made to ensure the safety and freedoms we all enjoy today.

I've had the pleasure to interact with most, if not all of the familiar Veterans in this community. Whether it was taking the cover photo, or greeting one of them at a community event, it's always a great honor to say shekóli and yawn?kó.

This also goes for the unfamiliar faces as well. While out shopping or running errands, if I see a Veteran hat, I say thank you. I encourage you all to do the same. It's a simple gesture that really means a lot. Just as Chairman Hill expressed in the article on page nine, "This is a great reminder for

us to remember our history and our culture to be able to rely on that for resiliency, knowing that someone before us really struggled for us to be here today." Chairman Hill mentioned this during the Indigenous Peoples Day tobacco burning and it really resonated with me on how it's such a fitting statement regarding our

Although we owe them so much more than words can say, take a moment to thank a Veteran for answering the call.



Veterans as well.

**Garth Webster** Kalihwisaks Senior Editor



# 

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### KALIHWISAKS

Official Publication of the Oneida Nation
"She Looks For News"



Scan for more Kalihwisaks stories





A good mind. A good heart. A strong fire.







🛎 BIG BEAR

**(**) 920.496.5632

### **Cover Photo**

With assistance from John Breuninger, Connor Kestell, and Deke Suri, this drone photograph was taken Friday, October 10, 2025, at the War Memorial Wall on Pleasant Lane in Oneida. This group of warriors represent the Oneida Nation Veteran Affairs Committee, Wisconsin Indian Veterans Association, and Robert Cornelius VFW Post 7784. Veterans Day is Tuesday, November 11. Take a moment to thank a Veteran for their service.

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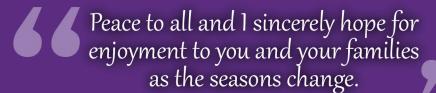


An ornately carved bench, created by sculptor Jamie Doeren from Abrams, WI, was recently placed at the lookout point of the S Cty Rd U entrance to the Where the Waterbirds Nest wetland restoration area.



# LARRY BARTON JULY Oneida Nation Treasurer

ONEIDA BUSINESS COMMITTEE FORUM



Feel free to contact me at 920.869.4394 or email lbarton2@oneidanation.org

Greetings to the Membership as the Fall season emerges. The time of harvest is a time of gratitude as earth continues to provide sustenance to our community through a variety of positive resources.

The Treasury and Finance Area are busy vesting in responsible financial stewardship. Meaningful funding of the Permanent Executive Contingency (Rainy Day Fund) reflects due diligent preparation for unforeseen financial challenges. The occurrence of challenges appears to be more frequent in nature elevating the continued need to plan for any unexpected "event(s)" and to protect the community. Importantly, the Permanent Executive Contingency will soon be referred to as "Oneida Sovereignty Fund" at the recommendation of the CFO.

In addition to the Permanent Executive Contingency Fund, the Treasury and Finance Area understand it's a central necessity in the future to develop and fund a Grant Reserve Fund. Its purpose is to accumulate a reserve fund to maintain service levels should policy shift or government shutdown or an event that could impede receipt of grant resources.

Maintaining service delivery levels to the membership is the ideal intended purpose of the noted reserve, should external disruption of Grants occur. Intentional Financial Planning to mitigate risk is the desired outcome in protection of the Nation's critical services. The

normalization of Government Shutdowns and Funding levels require accumulation of the Grant Reserve on a practical basis and is required from a policy basis noted in the Finance Law.

Along with Financial Planning, emergent legal cases represent continued assessment and monitoring. Risk assessment with pending cases where Tribes nationally are impacted is an on-going concern potentially distilling to a financial impact. With a myriad of risks in mind, the Finance Area continues to maintain due diligence in the guidance of Budgeting process.

We look forward to budget input and attendance of the membership at upcoming Community Budget Sessions (See the callout below).

In conclusion, the 2026 Budget has a Balanced Budget in accordance with the Finance Law.

Despite the discrete level of resources (sources) available, the level of uses is expansive. The budget reconciliation process is a very challenging reality and the attempt to meet competing areas of funding is annual and perpetual.

Until action is formalized at the GTC 2026 Budget meeting (See callout below) regarding, the Continuing to Operate Fiscal year 2026 Resolution 9-10-25-C is in effect to continue operations. Ideally an expedient resolve and action to end the Federal government shutdown will occur.



## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

### Caretakers of the Land

**Oneida Works with State to Mitigate** the Loss of Wetland Areas

By Environmental Land & **Agriculture Division** 

This drone photo by Stephanie Skenandore of Oneida's Geographic Information Systems Department, shows a bird's-eye-view of the restored wetland area on the corner of County Rd. U and Shady Lane.



A decade ago, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) established a mitigation agreement with Oneida regarding the loss of wetlands along State Hwy 29 on the northern edge of the Oneida reservation, which were filled for new ramp and overpass construction. To offset and/or mitigate the effects of the loss of these wetlands, the DOT created a new wetland at the intersection of County Rd. U and Shady Lane.

In instances where the loss of natural features such as wetlands or forests is unavoidable, legislation mandates mitigation efforts. Specific ratios are stipulated and

approved for replacement. In this scenario, the mitigation entails compensating for the irreplaceably lost wetland resources through the establishment of a created wetland, with a goal to restore, as comprehensively as possible, the ecological functions and societal benefits of the original wetland.

During the winter of 2025-26, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) plans to transfer ownership of a 40-acre wetland mitigation parcel to the Oneida Nation, with the objective of ensuring ongoing benefits to both the ecosystem and the community.

Onnyote<sup>2</sup>a·ká ni<sup>2</sup>i Project **Community Input Session** 

# **Upcoming Events**

**Veterans Focus Group** Wed. Nov. 5 | 9:30AM - 11:30AM **Veterans Office** 

**Elder Focus Group** Tues. Dec. 2 | 12:45 pm **Congregate Meal Site** 

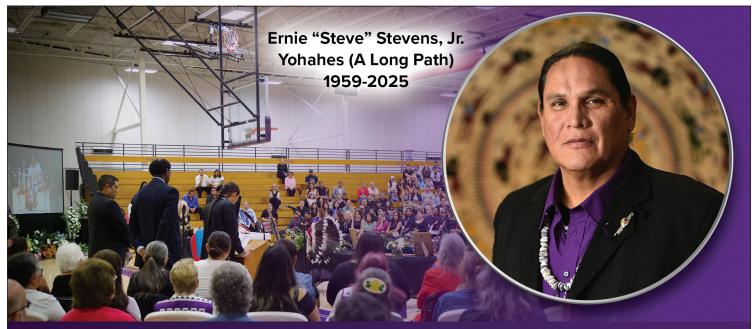
**Descendants Focus Group** Sat. Nov. 8 | 10AM - 12PM Great Lakes, Oneida Hotel

**General Session** Sat. Nov. 8 | 1:30PM - 3:30PM Great Lakes, Oneida Hotel





We Want **Your** Input!



Many paid tribute to Ernie Stevens during the wake Friday evening, October 3, 2025 at the Oneida Turtle School, including Ernie's grandson, Daniel. On stage with his father and Ernie's friend, legendary LA Laker A.C. Green, Daniel said, "He deserves not be be remembered for his years but for the love, wisdom, and kindness he poured into all of our lives. To me, he was more than just a grandpa, he was a teacher, a role model and a friend. He taught me so much."

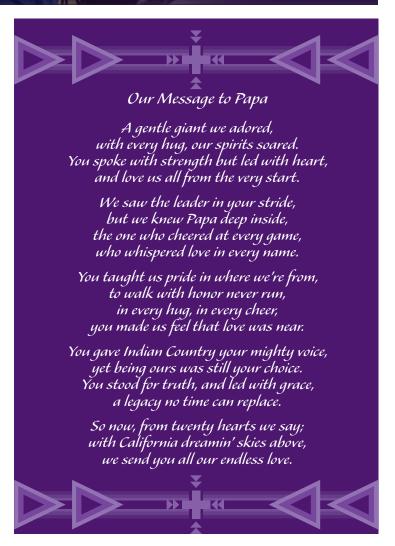
### **By National Indian Gaming Association**

The Indian Gaming Association (IGA) today announced the public memorial services for their beloved Chairman, Ernest L. Stevens, Jr., who passed away suddenly on Friday, September 26, 2025, at the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin.

Chairman Stevens dedicated more than two decades of his life to protecting and advancing tribal sovereignty through tribal government gaming. Under his leadership, Indian gaming flourished, growing from \$11 billion in revenues in 2000 to a record \$43.9 billion in 2024, making tribal government gaming the largest segment of the U.S. gaming industry.

A proud citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, Chairman Stevens was widely respected as a national leader, bridge-builder, and advocate for Indian Country. His tireless work in Washington, D.C., elevated the IGA into one of the most effective voices on Capitol Hill. Stevens fiercely defended the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and worked closely with tribal leaders, Congress, and federal agencies to ensure tribal governments had the resources to fund schools, build hospitals, preserve culture, and create jobs for their communities.

"Chairman Stevens' passing leaves a void that will be felt across all of Indian Country," said Jason Giles, Executive Director of IGA. "He was not only our Chairman, but a mentor, a friend, and a warrior for tribal sovereignty. His legacy will continue to guide our work for generations to come."



## RECOGNITION



### By Garth Webster

On Wednesday, September 26, the Oneida Business Committee (OBC) recognized the lifetime of achievements of two former OBC members, Lloyd E. Powless, Jr. and Mark A. Powless, Sr.

Lloyd began his service to Oneida in 1982 when Joy Ninham approached him to run for the Council Member position she was vacating. Lloyd was successful in his campaign for council and went on to serve four terms up until 1993, making significant impacts in education, health, and housing. After his elected service, he continued his service to Oneida in high level managerial roles before retiring in 2010.

Lloyd's only child, Mark Powless, and current Chief Executive Officer of Nation Services, offered his perspective on his father's managerial and leadership expertise, "One of his greatest attributes was his ability to morph into leadership of almost any management position as an interim, appointee, or as an employee hired to execute management functions in most any position."

Lloyd was also well known for his role as Chairman of the Pow Wow Committee for 30 years. Many remember him for the Turtle haberdasher hat he wore during the Sunday session of each pow wow.

Mark's wife, Debra introduced her husband and current Chairman of the Oneida Gaming Commission (OGC) saying, "Today we pay respect and honor the lifetime achievements of Mark. We are grateful for his longstanding service to the Oneida Nation and as a veteran of the United States Marines. Mark is part of a Nation building foundation of Oneida and has proven to be a visionary warrior and statesman for generations."

In addition to serving as councilman from 1978-1987 and OGC, Mark's resume includes comprehensive economic development plans such as the creation of Four Fires, LLC and Bay Bank. He was also active on the Oneida Nation School Board, Land Commission, and Tribal cemetery. His involvement in these activities enabled him to testify before the US Congress regarding the Ancient Indian Land Claims Bill, Indian Child Welfare Act, among others.

Both Mark and Lloyd expressed their gratitude for being recognized but also, recognized the foundational

efforts of ancestors, current leaders, their family, and those that will come after them.

As Lloyd spoke to everyone, he specifically and emotionally provided a message to his grandson in attendance, "I was watching a television show about the history of Native Americans and what was done to them and that they survived. I'm just happy to be a part of this Tribe...we're going to survive too. A lot of the things we do is for them [future generation]."

Mark echoed Lloyd's sentiments, "It takes a team to build...As we look back on the accomplishments of Oneida, a lot of Tribes recognize Oneida as progressive, and we are. That's done through the efforts of many of our Tribal members who have sacrificed their time to build our Nation. We're still building and we're still standing."



Mark. A. Powless, Sr. Resolution and Accomplishments



Lloyd E. Powless, Jr. Resolution and Accomplishments

# No More Stolen Sisters Oneida Licensing Soon to Debut New License Plate Design

### By Garth Webster

The Oneida Licensing Department will begin issuing a new license plate in December 2025 to help build awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) crisis happening across North America and Canada.

In response to disturbing MMIW statistics, North Dakota Senator (2013-2019) Heidi Heitkamp introduced Savanna's Act, S.227 in 2017. The act was urged forward by Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski and signed into law October 10, 2020. The bill established protocols for federal, state, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies to combat the human rights issue.

Oneida will join other Tribes, such as the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Kiowa Tribe in Oklahoma, among others, who currently offer MMIW license plates. Like these Nations, Oneida's design will feature the symbolic MMIW red hand along with a silhouette of a woman standing in defiance to Indigenous People being silenced, oppressed, and subjected to violence. Floral designs, often associated



Oneida Licensing (OL) Employee Olivia Danforth (left), with OL Administrator, Tonya Webster. Also on the OL team but not pictured is Mercedes Danforth-Hernandez. Together, this team provides service to approximately 3,100 enrolled Oneida registered drivers.

with woodland Tribal motif, along with a phrase that has become a common rallying cry of the MMIW movement, "No More Stolen Sisters" is also included.

Oneida Licensing Administrator, Tonya Webster, states, "Our new MMIW License plate will reaffirm that Oneida stands in solidarity with the rest of Indian Country to end the MMIW crisis."

On Friday, December 19, 2025, Oneida Licensing will unveil the new MMIW license plate and present the first license plate to a Tribal member directly impacted.



As reported in the April 2025 edition, upon completion of the exterior of the their new facility, the staff anxiously awaited settling in once the interior was complete.

Seed tender loads up to 2,000 lbs of seed, which then unloads the seed into the grain mill (planter) for future crops to grow.





Just inside the spacious entrance area on the north side, visitors are greeted by Office Manager Marlene Westgor as they browse the selction of beef and bison products.

Seed Drill/Planter. This machine recently completed 400+ acres of winter wheat for the 2026 crop.





This climate controlled portion of the facility includes a large freezer storage unit as well as workspaces for employees to perform machinery maintenance.

Combine and the 35 foot grain head, used for combining 2026 soybean over 1,800 acreas.





In front of the large Maple tree behind the Norbert Hill Center, the community once again came together on the second Monday in October to acknowledge Indigenous Peoples Day.

Sonny Hill, Cayuga, provided a tobacco burning ceremony as the participants stood around the fire in quiet reflection, listening to the words Hill provided reminding them of our original instructions. After Hill completed his address, Artley Skenandore, Jr. addressed the attendees.

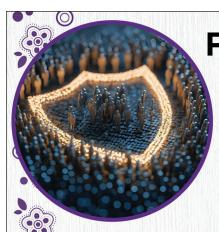
"When the Peacemaker traveled about and put these titles of the Chiefs, Clanmothers, and Faithkeepers in place...that circle continues to be our strength. Today, we stand to renew that again. We're reminded about the things we've done to raise this fire, burn our tobacco and let that smoke rise with all of our messages of gratitude and thanksgiving. Today, we set aside [this day] as a renewal of that beginning," says Skenandore.

Councilman Jonas Hill states, "Oneida Nation of Wisconsin exercises our inherent right to express our sovereignty by proudly affirming our unwavering support for Indigenous Peoples Day, a vital recognition of our history, our culture, and ongoing impact of Indigenous leadership, knowledge, and resilience. By reaffirming this resolution,

we take a meaningful step towards truth, healing, and justice for all Indigenous communities across the world."

"This is a great reminder for us to remember our history and our culture to be able to rely on that for resiliency, knowing that someone before us really struggled for us to be here today. It's our duty and responsibility to make it that much better for the next generation, this generation, and the next seven generations," says Chairman Tehassi Hill.

Councilwoman Jennifer Webster also shared a story to reaffirm our presence, providing with it a reminder of one of her primary missions with Oneida Reads, "It reminds me of a story of Indigenous people sitting on a log. As different Nations came...the first were the Vikings, we scooted over. The second wave that came over, that was the Dutch, so we scooted over a little more, then the French, and Columbus. Pretty soon, Indigenous people were at the end of that log but we're still here. Take this story and make a statement...every time you wear your ribbon skirt, ribbon shirt, or graduate our children and read to our children, you're making a statement that we're still here and that we will be here in the future."



Protect the Tribe
Protect the Vibe

See Something, Say Something Campaign Under Development

By Gavriella Van Boxtel

Communications Specialist-Post Graduate

The quarterly Nation Services Community Meeting, hosted by Chief Executive Officer Mark W. Powless, took place at the Norbert Hill Center Thursday, October 9, 2025. The topics for these meetings are different every time – this quarter, the discussion was on efforts to promote pride and protection of our Oneida community.

The office of Nation Services has been working on developing a "See Something, Say Something" campaign due to recent instance of illegal dumping and vandalism, among other criminal activity (See the callout below for recent campaign accomplishments).

The goal is to get community mem-

bers to feel comfortable with reporting suspicious behavior to the Oneida Police Department (OPD), as well as getting familiar with both the emergency and non-emergency phone numbers to call in reports.

The campaign has many potential themes, including confidentiality in reporting, protection of people and assets, promoting partnership with OPD, and promoting a safe community, among others. Some other goals of the campaign include placing signage and cameras around the crime hotspots on the reservation.

Success will hinge on the efforts of the various Oneida Nation departments.

### Campaign progress so far includes the following:

Meeting with Eric Boulanger, Chief of OPD
Completion of a youth focus group with Oneida Recreation teenagers
Meeting with Oneida Nation Commission On Aging
Drafted communication plan created by Gavriella Van Boxtel



Oneida Police Dept. 920-869-2239 Oneida Health Center 920-869-2711



### **EMERGENCY: 911**



National Crisis & Suicide Lifeline

Crime Stoppers 920-432-7864 **Drug Taskforce Tip Line** 920-437-3784

### Oneida Nation Emergency Assistance

Aging & Disability 920-869-2448

**Comprehensive Housing** 920-869-2227

Conservation Dept. Business Hours 920-869-1450 Emergency

920-613-6184 Emergency Tree Removal 920-869-6500

**Division of Public Works** 

Business Hours 920-869-1059 Emergency 920-227-7389

Emergency Food Pantry

Business Hours 920-869-6165 Emergency 920-606-6002 Economic Support 920-490-3939

Emergency Management Business Hours 920-869-6650 Emergency 920-366-0411

Emergency Septic Pumping 920-613-6790

Public Transit 920-496-5770

**Utilities** 920-496-5290

Water & Sewer Emergency 920-613-6750

Oneida Help Line 920-869-4481

# Welcome Back Mr. Krawczyk!



Join us in welcoming Eric Krawczyk back to the Oneida Nation as the Education & Training Area Manager! Eric has over 30 years of experience with the Nation and has a strong background in public health education as well as data-driven decision making. Congratulations on your new role!

"As I step into this new role, I am excited to strengthen opportunities for learning and growth within the Oneida Nation, honoring our traditions, while preparing our community for the future," says Krawczyk.

Erick Krawczyk Office Location: Ridgeview Plaza ekrawcz1@oneidanation.org • 920.869.4037



### **Safety Tips**

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitch-

- en to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

### **Facts**

- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.



Lithium-Ion Battery Safety



Oneida Police Dept: 920-869-2239
Oneida Health Center: 920-869-2711

# IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT CALL YOUR ELECTRIC/GAS COMPANY FIRST:

WE Energies Power Outage:

1-800-261-5325

WE Energies Gas Emergency:

1-800-622-4797

WPS Power Outage:

1-800-450-7240

WPS Gas Emergency:

1-800-450-7280

### WARMING/COOLING CENTERS For Widespread, Prolonged Power Outages:

VFW: 2980 E. Service Road

Parish Hall: 2936 Freedom Road

Civic Center: 2913 Artley St (ALTERNATE)

### In the event of an Emergency or Disaster, Community Information will be provided thru RAVE Alert

Information can be obtained at the Oneida One Stops or by calling the Oneida Nation Hotline.

### **Oneida Nation Hotline**

920-869-4481

**Emergency Tree Removal** 

920-869-6500

Damage Casused by Severe Weather

211

# **FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**



**Continuing Traditions** 

**32nd Annual Harvest and Husking Bee** 

Tsyunhehéhkwa held its annual Harvest and Husking Bee Saturday, October 4, 2025 at the 139 Riverdale Drive location in Oneida.

As the activities began at approximately 10am, the Atú•nyute? (Eagle) shown right, flew overhead, providing a sign of encouragement for the community to once again gather to harvest o•n\(\text{ste}^2\) (corn).

A great time was had by all. Vendors were set up offering beautiful items for purchase, while the Oneida Cannery, Luys' Food Truck, and the Oneida Veterans provided delicious food.

Also, community members enjoyed a wagon ride, pulled by a large tractor captained by Mike Arce of the Environmental, Land & Agriculture (ELA) Division. The wagon circled into and around the northeast corner of the farm, providing a view of community members roaming the fields in search of White Corn.

Riders also witnessed a make-shift studio set up in the middle of one of the corn fields recording Dr. Carol Cornelius as she answered questions about the community-based culture surrounding White Corn.

Cornelius' interview will be part of a Wisconsin Historical Center production that will debut in 2027 in the new and upcoming History Center in Madison. The film will be shown on a special 360 degree round theater, immersing the audience in Indigenous culture, knowledge, and wisdom.



Learn more at the film and Wisconsin Historical Society









Top to bottom: Community members husk WhiteCorn to prepare it for braiding. Wagon riders are given a scenic tour of the fields as they enjoy each other's company while. Jr. Miss Oneida Marley Fontaine, Miss Oneida Mia Charnon, Councilman Jonas Hill, and ELA Division Director Eric McLester welcome everyone to the 32nd Annual Harvest & Husking Bee.

Continuing to Celebrate Hope and Recovery

**Recovery Nest Celebrates 3rd Anniversary** 



L to R: Oneida Recovery Nest Coaches, Patrick Danforth, Lori Elm, Recovery Coach Supervisor, Jodie Skenandore, and Recovery Coaches Kristy King, Stephanie Skenadore, and Brittney Skenandore.

### By Oneida Behavioral Health

On Monday, September 22, 2025, community members, staff, and local organizations gathered at the Oneida Recovery Nest to celebrate its third anniversary. Since opening in 2022, the Recovery Nest has provided culturally relevant healing, support, and recovery coaching for members of the Oneida Nation walking a path to recovery.

The anniversary event included food, fellowship, and a screening of *Ben Is Back*, a film that highlights the complexities of substance use and family dynamics. Attendees visited resource tables hosted by organizations including the Oneida Nar-Anon family group, Alcoholics Anonymous, Tribal Action Plan, and other behavioral health services.

"This milestone is a testament to the power of community and the importance of accessible, culturally grounded recovery support," said Mari Kriescher, director of Oneida Behavioral Health. "The Oneida Recovery Nest continues to be a place where individuals find strength, connection and hope."

The Oneida Recovery Nest currently has five recovery

coaches including Patrick Danforth, Stephanie Skenandore, Lori Elm, Brittney Skenandore and Kristy King, along with Recovery Coach Supervisor, Jodie Skenandore. These coaches provide non-clinical guidance in areas such as housing, medical care, education and employment. In addition to one-on-one coaching, the Recovery Nest hosts support groups and activities such as Nar-Anon meetings for loved ones, a beading support circle, the Wellbriety Recovery Talking Circle, and more.

The event included a moment of remembrance for those the community has lost to substance use, reinforcing the Recovery Nest's mission as a place of healing, wisdom, and community resilience.

For more information, contact
Oneida Recovery Nest at 920.490.3950
or email RecoveryCoach@OneidaNation.org



Du Pray Ministries Inc.

### Healing & Deliverance Conference OUR SPEAKERS Steve & Joan Driessen

Fri., Nov. 21 • 6:30pm Sat., Nov. 22 • 2pm

**Oneida VFW Post 7784** 2980 E. Service Rd., Oneida, WI

920.217.0135



Right: An architectural rendering of the Kahnekano•lú (Precious Water) Oneida Cultural Center on Hwy 172. The Cultural Center mission is to preserve, protect, and strengthen the history, culture, and lifeways of the OnA yote?•aká people.

Stacy Coon, Cultural Center Director says, "We're so excited to share that we're striving to achieve our mission for the Oneida community. Last month, in the October 2024 Kalihwisaks, we shared our plans to develop an interactive video we feel will be greatly enjoyed by our visitors when we open in Spring of 2026. This month, we're happy to report that construction progress is really coming along."

As the photo above was taken on Thursday, October 9, 2025, Construction Field Superintendent Robert A. Umentum mentioned they were preparing to begin applying the first layer of parking lot asphalt. He also mentioned the fascia surrounding the windows were being installed.

"The excitement is building," says Coon. "We can't wait to open the doors and continue celebrating and preserving our culture for the Nation."



## **EDUCATION**



The Oneida Higher Education (OHE) College Fair took place Friday, October 17, 2025, at the Oneida Hotel, attracting bus loads of junior and senior students from schools as far away as Madison and Appleton.

OHE Advisor Tiana Silva says this is the first fair they've been able to host since 2019 when it lost momentum due to the pandemic, which is why Silva was so delighted.

"I love the fact that this is happening...I'm anxious, nervous, excited, all of it," says Silva, who's been with the department for the past 11 years.

Silva worked diligently to coordinate the venue, university representatives, the high schools, and even several departments from within Oneida, including Vocational Rehab and the Community Resource Center (formerly known as the Community Education Center).

Along with her OHE Team including Crystal Hill, Mistylee Herzog, and Joshua Gerzetich, they were able to bring together a unique college fair allowing college representatives to showcase their programs to Native American high school students from across Wisconsin. Silva goes on to describe that although this event has historically been for Indigenous students only, they have opened it to all ethnicities this year.

In addition to activities for high school students, she reaffirmed that she and her team are also here to provide guidance to adult and returning students.

Not only did the pandemic thwart the annual college fair, it also disrupted many of Oneida's adult learners utilizing the Oneida Higher Education Grant (OHEG).

"Many students dropped out or lost their drive during the pandemic," says Silva. In response to this, OHE developed the College Comeback initiative. This program allowed leniency to students on academic probation or on Student Academic Progress (SAP) suspension to regain good standing after one or two successful semesters. Thanks to this program, Silva says the number of successful students is returning to pre-pandemic levels.

Silva says to be on the lookout for more high school college fairs and OHE events geared towards adults. She says the OHEG is securely funded and ready for use. In fact, Silva also says OHE is working through protocols to potentially raise the grant money available for undergrad, graduate, and doctoral level students, which are currently 20k, 25k, and 30k, respectively.

"I'm so happy this is all coming together. Being able to have all these students at these events and show them what's possible and where they can go and what they can do with their future is the reason why I do this," says Silva.

Learn more by contacting Tiana Silva Call 920.869.4349 Email tsilva1@oneidanation.org

# 13 Moons Shine Bright in Oshkosh

# Dawn Dark Mountain Unveils her Newest Collection

By Michelle Danforth-Anderson

Watercolor Artist Dawn Dark Mountain unveiled her 13 Moons Collection Thursday, October 9, 2025, at thw University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (UWO) Annex Gallery.

Her signature expert technique captures the 13 moons of the annual lunar cycle with vibrant colors and nature scenes. Ironically, the collection took 13 years to complete and was inspired, in part, by a meeting years ago with Bob Brown, Oneida Cultural Advisor. At that time, Dawn was learning more about Oneida and herself. Those lessons helped mold her watercolor creations about Oneida over time. Another part of her inspiration was an artist-in-residence at the Eiteljorg Museum. It would be years later during the pandemic when Dawn, stuck at home, returned her focus and finished the remaining paintings.

Her favorite piece is the Strawberry Moon because she was born in June. A close second was Green Corn Moon. She also adds that the most difficult piece to complete was the Hunting Moon, mainly because she adores wild animals in her paintings and she is not a hunter.

Prior to the gallery opening, Dawn gave a presentation to a packed room of UWO students, faculty, and residents about her life work and how her art honors Oneida culture. Dawn visually discussed how she took a two-dimensional art form and pushed the boundaries with



multiple layers of watercolor to create three-dimensional art. This accomplishment is made even more impressive because watercolor painting is one of the most difficult art forms to master because when errors happen, the painting is often ruined. In addition to her layering technique, she also adds other elements like wampum and beads, so it doesn't rip the paper. If you're fortunate to see one of her paintings, look closely for the turtle, which she always adds to her work.

"Be willing to put yourself out there. Don't be afraid to be judged, or have your work judged. Be willing to enter competitions, fellowships, and residences, and stand behind your work you believe in. It enables your work to be seen, but be prepared for rejection and try again," says Dark Mountain.



The 13 Moons Collection was on display through Ocober 30 at the Allen Priebe Gallery at the University of WI-Oshkosh.



Wednesday, November 19
Registration: 12:30pm • Program Duration: 1pm-3:30pm
Oneida Hotel • 2020 Airport Dr., Green Bay, WI

Learn about the current state of 3rd grade reading proficiency for Native students in Brown and Outagamie Counties. Understand why it matters and align with the actions that will lead to improved outcomes. Join us to be a part of the movement!



Scan the QR Code to Register



Act fast!
Space is limited to
250 guests.



## **Decades of Dedication**

### **Oneida Nation Recognizes 4th Quarter Years of Service Recipients**



During the the Oneida Business Committee (OBC) meeting Wednesday, October 22, 2025, OBC members along with Executive Human Resources Director, Laura Laitinen-Warren, recognized the long and dedicated tenures of Oneida Nation employees.

Along with the familiar faces of the OBC, front row, left to right are; Phil Wisneski (30 years), Chad Fuss (25 years), TerryLee Blackowl (40 years), Heidi Mathey (30 years), David Emerson (30 years), and Andrew Leitzke (25 years).



Complete list of Years of Service Recipients, including those not in the photo

# Oneida ( Heritage F

The mission of Oneida Cultural Heritage (OCH) is to provide Lotinuhsyuni knowledge and resources (knowledge of Cosmology, economic, political, social structure, cultural Oneida world view-past present and future and how those teachings apply to today) Lotinuhsyu.ni' (People of the longhouse including and encompassing whomever becomes part of our community) to strengthen Tsi Niyukwaliot^.

As we acknowledge November as National Native American Heritage Month, we wanted to shine a light on the wealth of knowledge the OCH Team has assembled on their website.

Whether you're seeking historical information or culturally appropriate craft activities to do with your littles, their website has it all, and more. Due to the depth information available, the Ceremonies, Teaching and Learning Resources, and Cultural Heritage Video sections are highlighted here.

Oneida Cultural Heritage contact Information: 920.496.5384 • Open M-F, 8am-4:30pm 1250 Packerland Dr., Cottage 3, Green Bay, WI 54155



L to R: Wolf Clan Manager, Stephenie Muscavitch-VanEvery, Turtle Clan Manager, Nick Metoxen, and Bear Clan Manager, Tsyosha?aht Delgado.



### **Explore the Ceremonies Section**





Ceremonies follow the cycle of the seasons. The start of each ceremony is determined by the Faithkeepers in each community. This is determined by a careful observance of agriculture, the moon, and the cycle of the seasons. Brief descriptions held by the Haudenosaunee are provided, including the Kanehelatúksla (Thanksgiving Address) at right.





The Thanksgiving address, also known as the Kanehelatúksla, is done before we conduct any of our duties or any business that day. We say this before we start our ceremonies or anything that has to do with our culture or community gatherings. The opening is done at the beginning and then the closing is done at the end of the gathering. It is done to let the Creator and all of creation know that we are together and that we are still giving thanks to everything. It's an acknowledgment prayer to everything on Earth and beyond to the Creator's Land. The prayer starts by giving thanks to the People and then the Earth and everything on Earth. It then gives thanks to the sky world and spirit world. Then to our prophet Handsome Lake, and it ends with thanking the Creator.

L to R: Oneida kastowi (two feathers up, one down), is worn by men during ceremonial or special events. This particular kastowi, with antlers, indicates it's a Chief's kastowi. Other Haudenosaunee Nations have kastowis with different feather configurations. The water drum, made from a hollowed out log, filled with water and covered with deer hide, is a musical instrument used to sing social and ceremonial songs.

# Cultural Resources





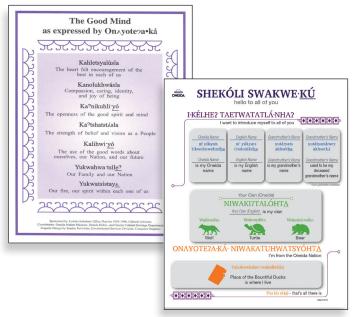
### **Explore the Teaching** = and Learning Resources





The Oneida Teaching and Learning Resources section of the Oneida Cultural Heritage website is brimming with resources for educators, putting culturally relevant activities at the fingerprints of teachers to fill the hearts and minds of our children with cultural enrichment:

- Work Packets-Educational activities to print and learn Oneida language and culture.
- Projects-Printable crafts often involving coloring, cutting, gluing, and folding.
- Flashcards and Posters-Visual Oneida learning tools that can be printed and used at home or in the classroom.
- Incentives-Printable rewards for students.
- Listen and Learn-Listen to audio recordings of speakers telling stories or themed vocabulary. Print the document to follow along.
- Oneida History Bins-Oneida Culture curriculum, with printable teachers guide.





### **Explore the Cultural** Heritage Videos





Oneida Cultural Heritage has compiled an array of videos that are sure to broaden the cultural knowledge of those seeking either information on historical or contemporary circumstances regarding the Oneida community. Sit back, press play, and immerse yourself in any one of the following videos:

- Canandaigua Treaty 2011
- Creation Story
- Decolonization 2018
- Elder Videos 2017
- Language Videos
- Oneida History & Federal Policies
- Loretta Metoxen

The Cultural Heritage team is currently developing more videos to add to the list above. Bookmark this page and come back often to see the updates.





The 1822 Land and Development Company, of Oneida Engineering-Science-Construction (OESC) Group, broke ground September 18, 2021, on the beginning of the Red Willow Flats Project just off Hwy 54 in Oneida, WI.

The construction consists of a 35-unit rental community that will provide safe, affordable, and accessible housing.

General contractor, Mission Support Services, of Oneida ESC Group, coordinates with Oneida Tribal member subcontracting companies to meet the business model – keeping project development dollars in the community.

Within the development are 24 apartment-style units in one building and 11 multi-family townhouse style units in a second building. As part of the community, seven of the units are for supportive and veteran housing and seven are market rate units. The multi-million-dollar project was funded through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).



"Red Willow Flats represents more than affordable housing – it reflects the heritage and resilience of the Oneida Community. Through strong partnerships and shared commitment, we've created a development that supports wellbeing today and for generations to come," says Pete King III of 1822 Land Development.

### **PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Affordable housing development to meets the needs of over 200 families on the Oneida Comprehensive Housing waiting list for homes.
- Merges economic development, community development, and socially responsible investment to benefit the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin.



The Treaty of Canandaigua-1794 painting was donated to the Oneida Tribal Schools by the Merville Powless family, including this sons Ronald (Shirley), Lloyd (Darlene), and David Powless, his daughters Ramona (Carlson), Shirley (Moore), and Dr. Donna Powless (David Grignon), his grandchildren Grant and Crystal Powless. The painting, created by Robert Griffing, can be seen at the Norbert Hill Center in Oneida, WI.

### A Message from Oneida Land Claims Commission Chairwoman, Chris Cornelius

Tuesday, November 11 marks the 231st anniversary of the Treaty of Canandaigua, a very important document between our Nation and the United States of America, in 1794. This document and the U.S. "Non-intercourse Act" are the crux of our unresolved land claims with the state of New York and various person(s). The Treaty promised and guaranteed lands and other rights to our Nation. The Non-intercourse Act stated that no sale of lands made by any Indian, Nation, or Tribe within the U.S. shall be valid to any person(s) or state. This treaty was signed by 59 Sachems and war Chiefs of the Six Nations. This Veterans Day, let's all recognize and honor both our living military veterans and the military warriors who signed the Canandaigua Treaty, 231 years ago.

Learn more about Oneida Land claims by joining our book club: Join us the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at 5pm Norbert Hill Center cafeteria. 920-869-4364.

## ENVIRONMENTAL



The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society's (NAFWS) 2025 Conference took place at the Oneida Hotel September 21-25, 2025.

After Randy Cornelius delivered the invocation, Councilman Jameson Wilson provided an overview of the historical milestones achieved by the Nation. Councilman Jonas Hill, who shares the same passion as Wilson for hunting and fishing in Oneida, showed moral support. Don Reiter, the Great Lakes NAFWS Regional Director, was also present to extended a warm welcome to all attendees while invited drum, Second Island-Tyson Webster, provided an appropriate song for the Color guard to carry in the Nation flags.

The event, themed "Sovereignty to Sustainability," was well attended by representatives from Tribes across the Midwest to exchange insights and findings from their ongoing research efforts, including Alaina Noll, Oneida's Water Resource Specialist for the Oneida Environmental Land & Agriculture (ELA) Division. Noll showcased her presentation, "Oneida Nation's Water Quality Improvements and Wildlife's Approval," illustrating how restoration efforts have enhanced Duck Creek.

The Oneida Bird Monitoring team from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay also presented their survey findings during their presentation, "Oneida Bird Monitoring Program: Connecting Community Science, Oneida Knowledge, and Land Management."





Above, the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS) Conference follows protocol by bringing in the Nation flags. Below, Great Lakes Regional Director of NAFWS and Wildlife Biologist with the Menominee Nation, Don Reiter with Terry Metoxen, Senior Oneida Warden.





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# Oneida Nation High School THUNDERHAWK TIMES THUND

# Record Enrollment By Thunderhawk Times Staff

Oneida Nation High School and the Oneida Nation School system are experiencing an impressive increase in enrollment.

A Daily Newsletter post on Friday, September 19 by Oneida School System Superintendent, Sharon Mousseau, reported the following numbers:

Grade K-5: 2024 - 206 students (92.36%).

2025 - 227 (90.87%).

Grades 6-8: 2024 – 87 students (90.55%).

2025 - 87 (89.52%).

Grades 9-12: 2024 – 138 students (89.57%).

2025 - 158 students (86.28%)

Total: 2024 – 431 students (91.10%).

2025 - 472 students (89.10%).

Numbers specific to the high school, by class, as of this writing are Grade 9: 47 students, Grade 10: 43 students, Grade 11: 31 students, and Grade 12: 42 students. That's a total of 163 students.

### Guitar Group "Walking the Road"

### By Harmony Ferrell

Every Thursday at ONHS, 10 Yamaha FG800 acoustic guitars get their workout. That's because as many as 20 ONHS students are taking guitar lessons with local musician Chris Dame.

There are two groups – a beginning group 4th hour and an intermediate group 5th hour.

We meet in the high school library.

So far in 4th hour, we've learned How to play "7 Nation Army" by the White Stripes and "Nothing Else Matters" by Metallica.

One student in the 4th hour group is ONHS freshman, Gabbi Velasquez-Skenandore, who

had this to say about learning to play, "I've been doing guitar for three weeks and it's been some of the worst three weeks of my life, but not because of guitar – that part's been great."

We are having a lot of fun and learning a lot. Instructor Dame tells us every lesson, "I'm not worried about perfection; I'm worried about progress. Every time you pick up your guitar, you are getting better." And, Come on. You can do it" with an encouraging hand gesture. Oh, and "the thumb isn't a finger for guitar players at least."

"Walking the road" is something another famous local guitar player once told Denis Gullickson who helps with the guitar group. "Us guitar players are all walking the same road, man. It doesn't matter how good or bad you think you are or when you started. We're all walking the same road."

# Going Green By Mi'quel and THT Staff

Five facts directly from Google's AI Overview for readers to consider when thinking about the current state of our planet's environment:

- 1. Global temperatures are rising, with the last decade being the hottest on record;
- 2. Oceans are absorbing significant heat and act as a major carbon sink;
- 3. Ice sheets and glaciers are shrinking, leading to rising sea levels;
- 4. CO2 levels are at their highest in two million years due to human activity; and
- 5. Plastic pollution is a severe threat, impacting marine ecosystems and killing a million sea animals annually.

These facts – not theories or sci-fi predictions – tell us that it's long-past time for each and all of us to act. Note that scientists agree that these signs of an environmental crisis are "largely human caused" meaning that human action can also solve the problem. That starts with us.

Over the next three issues, we look at some efforts large and small by individuals and by the Oneida Nation to turn things around by going green.

# "Way Over Yondr" New ONHS Cell Phone Policy in Place By THT Staff

The pros and cons of cell phones in schools are well known.

On one hand, you've got concerns about cell phones causing distraction, negatively impacting student's mental health, being used for cyber bullying, and sometimes even for cheating. On the other hand, you've got points to be made for their use in emergencies, as educational tools, and as an important link between students and parents in a hectic world.

Teenagers currently spend more than 8 hours a day on their cell phones. If students aren't texting and watching content on their phone, they are listening to music with their phone and headphones. Some students really struggle to pay attention in classes because their attention is split between classes and their phone/music.

Because of this, according to the internet, as of this year, about 77% of US public schools prohibit cell phone use in all classes and 38% have a total ban on cell phones at any point in the school day including lunch.

On Monday, October 6, ONHS goes "live" with its own program using "Yondr" pouches. For over a decade, Yondr has helped schools across all 50 states and more than 35 countries build healthier, more engaging school cultures. Their pouch-based program, combined with hands-on guidance and dedicated support, has led to

Thunderhawk Times Staff Aurthur Boyiddle, Harmony Ferrell, Joie Gutierrez Mi'quel LaRock, Saniya Clark-Ninham, Gabby Velasquez-Skenandore Advisors: Johnny Danforth and Denis Gullickson



powerful results:

86% reported improved safety and student wellness

84% saw increased engagement in class;

68% experienced academic gains; and

44% reduced behavioral referrals.

How does the pouch work? Basically, students are assigned a numbered, locked "Yondr" pouch that they carry with them. Student's cell phone stays in that pouch from the time they arrive at school in the morning until it is unlocked and they leave at the end of the day. Parents are encouraged to contact the high school office at 920.869.4308 if they need to contact their child.

On Thursday, October 2, the school did a "dry run" of the process. Following the exercise, ONHS math teacher, Jess Kachur, who has helped organize the program, reached out to staff, saying, "I just wanted to send this email to say how awesome it was to see everyone present and helping out with the phone pouches. It took us 10 minutes to get all the pouches distributed and 4 minutes to get them all unlocked! Great work!"

During the dry run, all students retrieved their pouch, put their phones in airplane mode and locked their phone in the pouch. The "drill" lasted for about 20 minutes. All students were very receptive to this idea and were very respectful of the pouches and the new policy.

We are happy to report that all students survived without their phone for this test.

Watch for more on this story as the school year goes by.





On September 2, Chippewa author, Angeline Boulley, spoke to ONHS students, staff, and guests about her new book, "Sisters in the Wind." Boulley's much-celebrated debut work, "Firekeeper's Daughter," was read by the entire school in 2023 and was named one of the top 100 young adult novels of all time by Time magazine. ONHS staff members were also gifted a signed copy of "Sisters of the Wind." Photo: Sarah Wunderlich



Caption: "Every Child Matters" was the theme of the gathering at the Oneida Turtle School on Monday, 9/30. The event commemorated "Orange Shirt Day" begun in Canada in 2013 to recognize the healing journey of Native boarding school survivors and honors their resilience and courage. It also commemorates the missing and murdered children from residential schools. Oneida School System staff and students wore orange and honored the day with a program that included the Kanuhelatuksla by Tyohuntsyawahuh Big Mountain, words by Guest Speaker and ONHS Principal Dr. Art Skenandore, and a social led by ONHS culture teacher Charlie Doxtator and students. Photo: Cindy Thomas



Caption: ONHS Language and Culture staff and students continue outreach to the Oneida Community including a recent social dance demonstration at the nearby VFW. L to R: Clay Young, Gloria Skenandore, Destiny Doxtator, teacher Charlie Doxtator, Kobie Bristol, and Markane Ellis. Photo: Cindy Thomas



### JUDITH M. EDER June 17, 1941 - September 24, 2025



Judith M. Eder (nee Johns) reunited with her beloved husband Wayne on Wedness day, September 24, 2025, at the age of 84. Cherished

mother of Dwayne (Debi) Eder, Debbie Strothenke, Frank Eder and Todd Eder. Proud grandma of Zach (Lauren), Alex, Krysta, Gina, Alan, Holli, Brandi and Melissa. Great grandma of Olive, Logan and Mady. Further survived by 2 brothers, other relatives and friends.

Juditch was preceded in death by her sister Beverly Lynd.

Visitation at the Max A. Sass & Sons Mission Hills Chapel on 11am-1pm, Friday, October 10. Memorial Service at 1pm. Private interment at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Wisconsin Humane Society appreciated.

### ROGER MICHAEL GILBERTSON May 13, 1954 - June 6, 2025



Roger Michael Gilbertson, 71, took his journey from this earth June 6, 2025. He passed away peacefully in his home. He was born to Leonard

Gilbertson and Delia Wilber. He had two daughters, Katherine and Sara Surprise. He worked as a drywall installer. His favorite thing was fishing. He had a green thumb for plants. He loved to cook and give it away to all his neighbors.

Roger was preceded in death by his mother, Delia Richmond, father Leonard Gilbertson, and bother Leonard Gilbertson

Roger was survived by daughters Katherine and Sara Surprise and grandchildren Hailee, Logan, Isiah, Amaryon, and Genesis. He was also survived by sisters Beverly (Bill), Brooks, and Diane Richmond, and many nieces and nephews.



### **SUSAN MARIE HOUSE**

January 26, 1955 - September 17, 2025



Susan Marie House, a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, passed away peacefully on September 17, 2025, in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Born on January 26, 1955, in Keshena, Wisconsin, Susan filled her 70 years of life with love, laughter, and an unwavering spirit that touched everyone around her. She was the daughter of Joseph and Sophie (Warrington) LaRock. A person who was not only beautiful on the outside but radiated warmth and love from within. Her caring nature and helpful demeanor made her a guiding source for many.

Susan was preceded in death by her parents and her beloved siblings: Glenda LaRock, Elaine (Benny) Sanapaw, Gwendolyn (Vincent) Olson, Rosetta (Delbert) Schlichting, Joan LaRock, Raymond LaRock, Wendell LaRock, and two infant brothers, Joe and Rodney LaRock. She also mourned the loss of her grandson, Julio Ochoa, whose memory she cherished deeply.

She is survived by her loving children, Richard (Crystal) House, Danielle House, and Orlana House, who carry forward her legacy of love and strength. Susan's spirit lives on in her grandchildren: Antonio, Corrisa, Micaela, Alysianna, Julian, Donavan, Sophia, Sikoya, Nevaeh, Jameson, Sebastian, Arianna, Sophie, Sarae, and Chanse, who were the light of her life and the source of countless joyful memories.

Throughout her life, Susan was actively involved in her community, most notably as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, where she helped others find their path to recovery with her characteristic charm and charisma. Her hobbies included gardening, decorating, exploring new things, cooking for others, and taking on DIY projects with enthusiasm and creativity. Susan had a natural flair for turning a house into a home, and her warm meals were a centerpiece of family gatherings, bringing everyone together in love and laughter.

Susan's laughter was infectious, and her sense of humor often lightened the hearts of those around her. She was a protective figure, always looking out for her loved ones, ensuring that they felt safe and supported. Her beautiful spirit, coupled with her ability to listen and guide, made her a cherished confidante to many.

Visitation will be held at Ryan Funeral Home 305 N. Tenth Street, De Pere from 4pm on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 until time of service at 7pm.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the nursing staff at St. Vincent's Hospital and Unity Hospice for their compassionate care and support during her final days.

## ERNIE "BIG CAT" L. STEVENS, JR. July 5, 1959 - September 26, 2025



Ernie L Stevens Jr., a loving son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away on Friday, September 26, 2025. He gave his life in service to his family, his

Nation, and to Indigenous Peoples everywhere. While Ernie was a citizen of the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin, he was known far beyond his home community for his dedication to tribal sovereignty, youth advocacy, and community development.

To the people who knew him, he was someone who always left an event last because he had to stop and talk to everyone. He enjoyed telling a long-winded story but loved hearing stories from others just as much. No matter where he was, he took time to share how proud he was of his children, how much he loved his wife, and how he was shaped by the strong women who raised him: most notably, his mother and grandmother.

From his earliest years, Ernie carried the teachings of his mother's activism. At just 13 years old, he stood alongside members of the American Indian Movement at Wounded Knee, learning what it meant to fight for his people. In his later years, his grandmother would establish a home near Duck Creek in Oneida for her family. It is here that Ernie would build on this homestead and provide a space for everyone to feel welcome. A homestead built

on many stories. Born in Los Angeles, California, and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for many years, he enjoyed the hustle and bustle of the big city. But he was most fond of the quiet days playing cribbage in his front yard with his wife.

Ernie earned his Associate's Degree from Haskell Indian Junior College in 1983, alongside his wife. Haskell held a special place in his family's story, as his grandmother, Maria Hinton, had also attended when it was still a boarding school. In time, all five of Ernie and Cheryl's children would follow in their footsteps, each attending Haskell and playing basketball there. Over the years, Ernie could often be found in the stands cheering on the games, giving guest lectures, handing out t-shirts, and showing up in every way possible to support the students. He loved Haskell deeply and often spoke of the mentors who believed in him before he believed in himself. Ernie earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Mount Senario College in 1996, where he was active on the Indian Student Council. During that time, he also served briefly as a Reserve Officer for the Barron County Sheriff's Department. He often spoke of how a kind soul gifted him his officer's belt during a time of need, a gesture he treasured and carried with him throughout his life. While still in northern Wisconsin, Ernie also became the youngest coach in the state, leading both basketball and soccer at UW-Barron. This marked his transition from player to coach, a path that grew into a lifelong commitment, hosting countless basketball camps, funding travel to tournaments, sponsoring jerseys, and supporting student-athletes across the country.

After graduation, Ernie returned home to run the Oneida Outreach Program at the Norbert Hill Center, where community members could earn college credit from Mount Senario College. He reflected on this time often and with pride, remembering how he leaned on community members to serve as educators, expanding access to opportunities that had not always been available. It was during this program that his mother and stepmother formed a lasting friendship, a reminder to him of how education could build bridges within community. With Cheryl's steady encouragement, Ernie later continued his own learning journey, earning a Master's in Management from the University of Phoenix in 2021.

Education did not always come easily to Ernie, but with the steadfast support of his

wife and the guidance of dedicated mentors, he persevered and found success. What fueled him most was his passion for athletics: boxing, basketball, football, baseball, and softball, which carried him across the country, earning championships, trophies, and jackets, but most importantly, forging lifelong friendships. His own struggles with academics gave him a deep respect for the power of education, and he became a strong advocate for others to pursue their studies. At the same time, because athletics had been a lifeline during his most challenging times, he committed himself to supporting the athletic journeys of young people throughout Indian Country. This dedication ultimately led him to co-found the Soaring Eagle Foundation, a tribute to the Soaring Eagle Boxing Club and an organization created to help Indigenous youth follow their dreams both on and off the court.

From 1993 to 1999 Ernie served as a councilman for the Oneida Nation Business Committee, where he worked to strengthen economic opportunity and improve services for his community through Self Determination. His leadership quickly extended to the national stage, being nominated and elected as First Vice President for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in 1999. In 2000, he was elected Chairman of the Indian Gaming Association (IGA), a position he would hold for 24 years. At the time of his passing he was serving his 13th term, having been reelected in April of 2025. Under his leadership for IGA, Ernest helped guide tribal gaming through unprecedented growth, making tribal government gaming the largest segment of the U.S. gaming industry. The success of gaming meant new schools, better health care, infrastructure, elder services, and youth programs for tribal nations across the country.

Ernest also served on the boards of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, the Nike N7 Foundation, Native Forward, the Center for Native American Youth, and the Boys & Girls Club's Native American advisory board. He was inducted into The Boys & Girls Club Alumni Hall of Fame in 2012, the American Gaming Association's Hall of Fame in 2015 and honored by many other organizations for his tireless advocacy. Throughout his career, Ernest worked with countless tribal leaders, members of Congress, and global organizations, but he never forgot who he represented. Whether he was testifying before Congress, addressing a national

conference, or sitting in a tribal gym, he carried himself as a warrior for the people. To Indian Country, he was an advocate, mentor, and friend. At home, he was Cheryl's best friend of 47 years, a devoted father, and a loving grandfather. Of all his titles and responsibilities, being Papa was the role he cherished above all others. To his 20 grandchildren, he leaves behind a legacy of endless love: Nyah, Patricia, MarjaRia, Ernest, Tierra, Brandon Jr, Daniel, Sierra, Marley, Markane, Mason, Lucia, Riddek, Orion, Lennon, Isley, Maria Grace, Luka, Abi, and Quade. Whether he was picking on them, giving them bubble gum, or just settling for a fist bump, they endured his teasing with groans and felt his love with each breath that he was near. He is survived by the love of his life, Cheryl Rose, his five children: Brandon (Ashlee), Ernie III (Stephanie), Margaret, Maria, and Lois (Paul), his siblings: Kelly (Shelly), Toni (Doug), Mike (Tommi), Pam, Jennifer, David, Michelle (Tehassi), and Apache (Brian), and his mother, Marjorie.

He is preceded in death by his grandmother, Maria Hinton, his father, Ernie Stevens Sr, his stepmother, Patricia, his little brother, Coleman, and his beloved German Shepard, Luke.

Ernie Stevens, Jr. was more than a leader; he was family to us all. As we honor his journey, we remember his laughter, his bright presence in every room, his willingness to listen, and his unwavering commitment to our people.

May we continue his work by living out the values he held dear: *Family. Community. Sovereignty.* 

Family and friends are invited to gather for visitation on Friday, October 3, 2025, from 4:00–8:00 p.m. at the Oneida Nation Elementary School (N7125 Seminary Rd, Oneida, WI). Visitation will continue on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 1:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. at the Oneida Nation Longhouse (W370 Reformatory Rd, Seymour, WI).

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 4, 2025, at the Oneida Nation Longhouse. Burial to follow at Oneida Sacred Buriel Grounds Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Soaring Eagle Foundation in support of the newly established Ernie Stevens Jr. Scholarship Fund.



### DEDRIC JASPER SHAWANOKASIC June 11, 1994 - October 2, 2025



Dedric Jasper Shawanokasic "Southern Sky", 31 of De Pere, WI passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, October 2, 2025. He was born on June 11, 1994, to

Travis McDaniel and Sheila Shawanokasic in Green Bay.

DJ loved the culinary arts and worked as a cook. He also enjoyed playing guitar, videogames, reading comic books, collecting Pokémon cards, weightlifting, and singing karaoke. He loved making candy and had a very active imagination. DJ had a special love for music and loved attending concerts. He especially loved his dog, Bucky, even though he was allergic.

DJ is survived by his parents, Travis Montgomery McDaniel and Sheila Shawanokasic (Robert), his sisters, Shanica Hill, and La Rissa Shawanokasic, his nephew Josias, as well as his grandmother Judith Jourdan.

He is further survived by his aunts and uncles, Michelle (Moon) Hill, La Donna Parker, Lai Lanna (Jermaine) Hill, and Kellen Hill, Samantha Jo and Joshua Shawanokasic, Lynn Young, Kiona Mc Daniel; great aunts and uncles, Butch, Mike, Danny, Bruce, Rick, Scott and Rocky King, Sally, Babe, Pete, Pudge, Hoss, and Namit Shawanokasic, Barbara Mckinze, Yvonne Jourdan, Henrietta Daly-Jourdan, Hank Jourdan, Jan Jourdan, Diane Jourdan, Tom Thorstenson, and Diana Demaree, as well as numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Anthony and Donna (King) Shawanokasic and Jerry McDaniel, great-grandparents Beatrice and Harold King, as well as his great aunts and uncles Rodney, Harvey, and Archie Shawanokasic, James Mckinze, Dean Tubby, Thomas Daly, Ken Jourdan, Mildred (Frank) Figueroa, and Patricia (Gordon) Benson.

Family and friends may come to call on Mon., Oct, 6, 2025 from 11am-1pm. at Ryan Funeral Home, 305 N Tenth Street, De Pere WI. A funeral service will begin immediately following the visitation at 1pm. A special thank you to the firekeepers, as well as family and friends who've been donating food. A special thank you as well as to Ryan Funeral Home, for their help during this time. Yaw^ko and Maec Waewaenen.

### DELORES "TOOTIE" JOHNS February 7, 1930 - October 4, 2025



Delores "Tootie" Johns, age 95, passed away on October 4, 2025, in Altoona, Wisconsin. Delores was born to William and Elizabeth (Rank) Johns

on February 7, 1930, in Stanley, Wisconsin. She graduated from Stanley High School in 1947 and then attended cosmetology school in Milwaukee.

She married John H. Polinske on June 6, 1950, at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Stanley, Wisconsin. They settled in Chippewa Falls and ope ned The Beer Den, a tavern on Spring Street which was inspired during a visit to Irvine Park when they drove by the Bear Den. Affectionately known as "Tootie," Delores was admired by those who knew her for her spirited nature and independent outlook.

She renovated a building that previously housed a grocery store on Margaret Street in Eau Claire and opened a daycare center called Jack & Jill Nursery, which she ran for nearly 30 years. It wasn't easy for a divorcee raising 3 children while operating a business in the late 1960's – early 1970's, but her spirited nature and independent outlook carried her through.

Delores was an Oneida member and took great pride in her heritage, which she instilled in her children and grand-children spending many summers attending Native American Powwows across the region.

Outside of work, Delores loved cheering on the Green Bay Packers, spending days on the golf course, and painting. She loved to garden and taking day trips to the local beach. Known for her strong values and compassionate heart, Delores had a confident and unwavering belief in fairness and equality. Having proudly voted for John F. Kennedy, she

carried throughout her life a deep sense of hope and conviction in the power of kindness and justice—qualities that she would no doubt stand up for in today's world. Her favorite song, "I hope You Dance," beautifully reflects her spirit—a reminder to live fully, love deeply, and never stop embracing life's moments with courage and grace.

Delores is survived by her children, Pam Danforth, Tina (John) Killey, and Jack (Linda) Polinske. She thoroughly loved her grandchildren, Yon Polinske, Brooke Brown, Keith Bimose Herman, Billy Hanson, Kateri Hanson, and Bella Killey.

She was preceded in death by her parents, son-in-law, Jerry Danforth, sisters, Evelyn Johnson and Adeline Fandy; and her brothers, Marvin, Clarence, and William Johns.

A funeral service was held Monday, October 13 at 11am at Hulke Family Funeral Home, 3209 Rudolph Road, Eau Claire. Burial followed at Holy Family Catholic Cemetery in Stanley.

### DONALD RAMON WHITE February 10, 1948 - October 8, 2025



Donald began his journey home to the creator on October 8, 2025, surrounded by his loving family at home.

He was born in Chicago, Illinois,

but maintained a strong connection to Oneida, where he spent every summer. This annual tradition helped him develop deep roots in the community, shaping his identity and lifelong commitment to service.

After graduating from high school, Donald joined the Army and dedicated two years to serving in Germany. Upon returning, he pursued higher education and earned his master's degree in education.

Donald devoted his career to improving education and opportunities for Native Americans. He worked in several programs, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs in New Mexico. He also served as principal for the Oneida Nation Schools and held leadership positions as director of the Chicago American Indian

Business Association and the Chicago Board of Education. Donald was deeply committed to providing quality education for Native students, and he played an instrumental role in developing a Native American Magnet School in Chicago. This school was designed both to serve Native students and to increase awareness of Native American contributions among all students.

Later in his career, Donald returned to Oneida, where he worked as director of Government Services until his retirement. After retirement, he served as a member of ONCOA board. Donald was passionate about being of service to his community, working in various positions in the Oneida Tribe. His lifelong dedication to education and community service left a lasting impact on both the Oneida and Chicago communities.

He is survived by his wife, Eunice of 32 years and his children Conan (Laura) and Gentri, stepdaughters, Jessamyn (Anthony), Corinne (Josh), and Sarah (Steve), and siblings Myron "Poncho", Charlotte "Chita", and Patrick.

He was preceded in death by his parents George and Mabel White, his brothers; Eugene "Geno", Rosario "Chummy", and Gerald.

Friends may call at Ryan Funeral Home 305 N. Tenth Street, De Pere from 1pm-4:30pm Monday, October 13, 2025. Oneida Hymn Singers will sing at 4pm, followed by a service led by Chaplain Matt Cornelius at 4:30pm, with full military honors to follow. Special thanks to the team at Compassus Hospice.

### On Their Journey

Please submit obituaries (300 words or less) and a high quality photo to Kalihwisaks@OneidaNation.org

<del>♥</del>À♥À♥À♥À♥À♥À♥À♥À♥

Pending room, obituaries longer than 300 words will be printed. If not, the Kalihwisaks requests that remitters provide both a shortened and full length version. The full length version will be linked to via a QR code.

The Kalihwisaks reserves the right to make exceptions to this guideline.



### Notice to Interested Person(s) Setting Hearing on Application for Probate and Setting Time and Notice to Creditors

To attend meetings virtually or request a copy of the materials, contact Brooke M. Doxtator at 920.869.4303 or email land\_commission@oneidanation.org.

#### Notice to Creditors: Deadline to file claim is December 1, 2025

To file a claim, contact Oneida Land Commission,

Attn. Government Administrative Office, PO Box 365, Oneida, WI 54155 or email land\_commission@oneidanation.org. Applications for probate have been filed as follows:

### Estate of William A. Schuyler, Sr., Case No. 2025-LCP-008

- The decedent with a date of birth of 3/8/1942, died on 10/20/2024, was domiciled within the exterior boundaries
  of the Oneida Reservation in Brown County, State of Wisconsin at 1403 S. Crestwood Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313.
- 2. TO THE FOLLOWING INTERESTED PERSON(S) and any persons not listed herein who may be identified by law as potential interested persons: Willam A. Schuyler, Jr., Jackson Schuyler, Bobby J. Serama, Kenneth W. Schuyler
- 3. A Probate hearing has been scheduled for 12/15/2025, 4pm, at N7332 Water Circle Place, Oneida, WI 54155.



#### ONEIDA JUDICIARY

### Tsi nu téshakotiya?tolétha / Trial Court

Payment can be made either in person at the Oneida Trial Court located at 2630 West Mason Street, Green Bay, WI 54303; or by mailing said payment to Oneida Trial Court P.O. Box 19, Oneida, WI 54155

NOTICE OF INTENT TO GARNISH: Terrylee F. Blackowl



The Oneida Veterans Services (OVS) Department needs help to identify and replace deteriorated Veteran Headstones in cemeteries located within Oneida Nation Reservation boundaries.

### \*\*\*\*\*\*

Replacement headstones will be provided free of charge, pending confirmed documentation (pictures of damages/illegible headstones, military documents, etc.) and application approval.

\*\*\*\*

To apply, contact OVS by calling 920.869.6116 or 920.869.6117 or email ckestell@oneidanation.org or jvalenti@oneidanation.org.

To take advantage of this program, OVS recommends you contact them at your earliest convenience.

### PUBLIC MEETING

ONEIDA NATION PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE • FRI., NOV. 14, 2025 • 12:15PM **Norbert Hill Center - Business Committee Conference Room** N7210 Seminary Rd., Oneida, WI



Find Public Meeting Materials at Oneida-nsn.gov/government/register/public meetings **Email Public Comments to** 

Ask Questions Here LOC@OneidaNation.org 920.869.4417

### HIGER EDUCATION GRANT LAW AMENDMENTS

The purpose of the Higher Education Grant law is to implement the Higher Education Grant program; and set forth the funding requirements and procedural controls for awarding Higher Education grants.

### The Higher Education law will:

- Outline the parameters of the Higher Education Grant, including eligibility require-ments, duration of funding, tiered funding system, and the methodology for calculating awards under various circumstances.
- Provide predictability and equity in funding; need-based flexibility; clear guidelines for students; and administrative efficiency and accountability. The tiered funding and award package system create a balanced, need-sensitive and goal oriented framework that sup-ports students in achieving higher education while maintaining fiscal responsibility and academic accountability.
- Provide clear guidance and defined boundaries for administering the Higher Education Grant.
- Delegate rulemaking authority, empowering the Higher Education Office to promulgate rules consistent with the Law to address practical and evolving implementation needs.
- Provide that the duration of funding available is determined by both the students as-signed funding tier and the number of credits allocated to each tier.

Individuals may attend the public meeting for the proposed Higher Education Grant law amendments in person at the Norbert Hill Center, or virtually through Microsoft Teams (MC). If you wish to attend the public meeting through MC, email LOC@oneidanation.org. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CLOSES FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2025.

During the public comment period, anyone may submit written comments, questions or input. Comments may be submitted to the Oneida Nation Secretary's Office or the Legislative Reference Office in person, by U.S. mail, interoffice mail, or e-mail.

For more information on the proposed Higher Education law amendments, please review the public meeting packet at www.oneida-nsn.gov/Register/PublicMeetings.

ONEIDA NATION PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE • FRI., NOV. 14, 2025 • 12:15PM **Norbert Hill Center - Business Committee Conference Room** N7210 Seminary Rd., Oneida, WI

Find Public Meeting Materials at Oneida-nsn.gov/government/register/public meetings

**Email Public Comments to** LOC@OneidaNation.org **Ask Questions Here** LOC@OneidaNation.org 920.869.4417

#### REAL PROPERTY LAW AMENDMENTS

The Nation is considering updates to the Real Property law to improve land governance, and streamline operations.

### Key proposed Real Property law amendments will:

- ♦ Limit the prohibition on selling Tribal land to parcels within 25 miles of the Reservation's boundaries. Exceptions include trust land consolidation, partition, and off-Reservation sales approved by resolution.
- Remove all probate-related provisions and definitions in anticipation of a standalone Probate law.
- ♦ Transfer rulemaking and operational authority from the Land Commission to Land Management, the Comprehensive Housing Division, and senior leadership. This includes lease approvals, land use licensing, and policy development.
- ♦ Reinstate trespass provisions, and expand enforcement powers to include citations, fines, and actions by Oneida police or wardens.
- Clarify the Nation's use of eminent domain as a last resort, with a process for judicial review.
- Clarify legal pathways for easements—by necessity, prescription, or written instrument. Adverse possession claims against the Nation are prohibited.
- Continue public access to land records through the Oneida Nation Register of Deeds, subject to approved fees.
- Increase Land Management staffing for real estate acquisition and clarify responsibilities for land care, leasing, and title management.

Individuals may attend the public meeting for the proposed Real Property law amendments in person at the Norbert Hill Center, or virtually through Microsoft Teams (MC). If you wish to attend the public meeting through MC, email LOC@oneidanation.org.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CLOSES FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2025.

During the public comment period, anyone may submit written comments, questions or input. Comments may be submitted to the Oneida Nation Secretary's Office or the Legislative Reference Office in person, by U.S. mail, interoffice mail, or e-mail.

For more information on the proposed Real Property law amendments, please review the public meeting packet at www.oneida-nsn.gov/Register/PublicMeetings.

# IN PARTNERSHIP WITH







WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
GREEN BAY





# SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, 2025 KRESS EVENTS CENTER

FIRST 1,300 ONEIDA NATION CITIZENS WILL RECEIVE A

# FREE TICKET TO THE GAME!

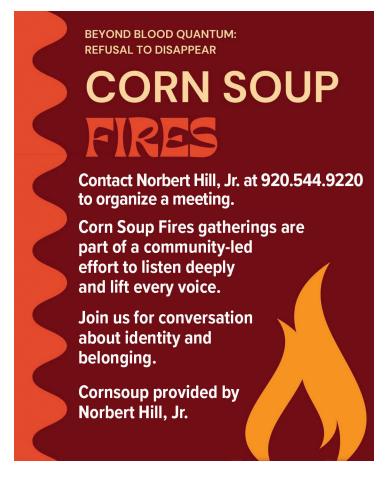
PLEASE WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ONEIDA NATION SOCIAL MEDIA













## **ATTENTION CUSTOMERS**

Effective January 2, 2026

# TRUST ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT SERVICES

TRIBAL ID	\$15
ELDER ID	\$5
LAND USE ID	\$30
CERTIFICATION CARD	\$10
ENROLLMENT APPLICATION	\$30
DESCENDANT APPLICATION	\$50
DESCENDANT REISSUE	\$20
RELINQUISHMENT	\$50
FAMILY TREE	\$20
BLOOD DEGREE INCREASE*	\$40
DNA TESTING**	\$24

\*Blood Degree Increases the base price is \$40, however if the blood increase effects 5 or more individuals there will be a \$20 fee associated with it.

\*\*DNA testing base price is \$24, but there will be a \$20 processing fee as well.

### Hours for issuing Tribal ID's

Monday - Friday

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

For questions, call 920.869.6200



# **NOW HIRING**

SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Everything we do makes the world a better place.



Environmental Services • Construction Services
Engineering and Design Services
Technology and Professional Services

Owned by the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin www.oescgroup.com

# **ONEIDA ESC GROUP COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Oneida ESC Group (OESC) will award up to two scholarships of \$5,000 annually to a high school senior or college senior pursuing a college education in engineering or earth/environmental sciences.

Scholarships are merit-based; submission of financial information is not required for eligibility.

# Complete application by November 10, 2025 and send to:

Oneida ESC Group Attn: Debra James-Brown 1033 N. Mayfair Road, Suite 200 Milwaukee, WI 53226 (414) 607-6758 djames-brown@oescgroup.com

Applications will be reviewed by a Scholarship Selection Committee and awards will be made by December 6th.



CLICK OR SCAN TO





ENGINEERING SCIENCE CONSTRUCTION







This study is open to both multi generational families living together and individuals. All study activities will be completed on the Oneida Reservation.

Develop New Skills

Impact Your Health

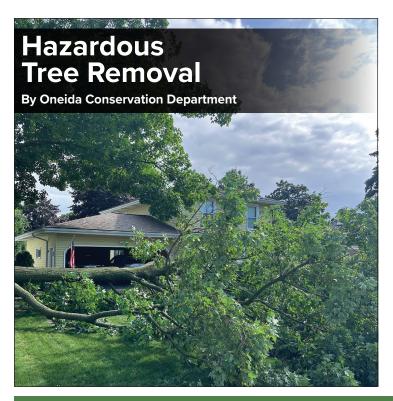
### FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Amanda Riesenberg
- 920-490-3984



This is a partnership between the Oneida Nation and UW Madison Stroke Team to help decrease Stroke and Stroke Risk Factors in Native Americans.





Identifying risks associated with hazardous tree(s) is subjective. Many tree failures are unpredictable, and thus, determining which trees will fail and how they will fail is difficult. The Hazardous Tree(s) evaluation involves examining the tree for:

- Structural defects and associating those defects with known patterns of failure.
- · Rating the degree of risk.

Since risks associated with trees cannot be eliminated, evaluations serve as a tool for trained Conservation Natural Resource Technicians to responsibly and effectively manage tree risks/dangers. Each tree may be subject to the stress from many variables, including weather conditions. It is/will be the duty of Home/Property Owner's with the Hazard Tree(s) to monitor, report, and remedy any tree condition which may threaten the vitality of the tree(s) and/or the safety of people and property.

Evaluations also help prevent removing healthy trees, provide documentation of the inspection process, and record the corrective action plan(s).

Evaluations are conducted for Oneida Nation enrolled elders (55 or over) and handicapped or disabled enrolled members. To schedule an evaluation, call 920.869.6500 or email Conservation\_Department@OneidaNation.org.



## Helping Elders Understand Medicare



### Tena Hendrickson 920-883-1040 or 883-762-8483

tena@nsains.com www.THinsuranceadvocate.com

Medicare Open Enrollment: Oct 15th - Dec 7th. Changes Happen Every Year! Join me to discuss new plans and details for 2026. Bring a friend or a family member.

### **Oneida Casino and Hotel Conference Center**

October 15

10:00 am - 11:00 am 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Please bring your "Annual Notice of Change" letter

If you prefer to meet one-on-one, call before Dec 7th to setup a private appointment.





We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent 22 organizations which offer over 30 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program to get information on all of your options. Form 08012025

# FALL PHOTO CONTEST





PRSRT STD US POSTAGE PAID ONEIDA WI 54155 PERMIT NO. 4

### **WE'RE HIRING!**







**Program and Service Positions** 

www.oneida-nsn.gov/resources/kalihwisaks/





# **HONORING ALL WHO SERVED**

★★★ Veterans Appreciation Meal ★★★
VETS Services Building 134 Riverdale Dr. Oneida WI
Tuesday, November 11, 2025 Noon - 2PM