

LITTLE RIVER **CURRENTS**



LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS

GAACHING ZIIBI DAAWAA ANISHINAABEK

TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

BNAAKWII GIIZIS | SEPTEMBER 2026

-Falling Leaves Moon-

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**Cover Art By
Sky Gonzalez**

**THIS
ISSUE**



Sky Gonzalez
Communications Officer
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ELECTED OFFICIALS

Our newly elected officials were sworn in June 11, 2025

Ogema	District	Term	Phone	Email
Larry Romanelli	At Large	2023-2027	231-398-6824	ogema@lrboi-nsn.gov
Council	District	Term	Phone	Email
Tammy Burmeister	9 County	2023-2027	231-398-6833	tburmeister@lrboi-nsn.gov
Al Metzger (R)	Outlying	2023-2027	231-398-6869	almetzger@lrboi-nsn.gov
Misty Silvis	9 County	2023-2027	231-398-6838	mistysilvis@lrboi-nsn.gov
Ron Wittenberg	Outlying	2023-2027	231-398-6828	ronaldwittenberg@lrboi-nsn.gov
Shannon Crampton (S)	Outlying	2025-2029	231-398-6885	shannoncrampton@lrboi-nsn.gov
Gary DiPiazza	9 County	2025-2029	231-398-6825	garydipiazza@lrboi-nsn.gov
Susan Thull	Outlying	2025-2029	231-398-6820	susanthull@lrboi-nsn.gov
Connie Waitner	9 County	2025-2029	231-398-6836	cwaitner@lrboi-nsn.gov
Julie Wolfe	At Large	2025-2029	231-398-6834	juliewolfe@lrboi-nsn.gov

(S) = Tribal Council Speaker

(R) = Tribal Council Recorder

Election Board	District	Term	Phone	Email
Kathy Gibson	At Large	2023-2027	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov
Shawna Gonzalez	At Large	2023-2027	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov
Kristi Fowler	At Large	2025-2029	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov
Jo Jo Green	At Large	2025-2029	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov
Lee Iverson	At Large	2025-2029	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov

Chief Judge	District	Term
Angela Sherigan	At Large	2021-2027

Associate Judge	District	Term
Caroline LaPorte	At Large	2025-2031

Appellate Judge	District	Term
Bernadene Crampton	At Large	2021-2027
Melissa Pope	At Large	2021-2027
Bernie Darrow	At Large	2023-2029



Voting Districts

At Large means all registered voters shall have the opportunity to vote for the seat.

9 County means all registered voters who reside within the 9 County district shall have the opportunity to vote for the seat.

Outlying means all registered voters who reside outside of the 9 County district shall have the opportunity to vote for the seat.

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETINGS



From left to right | Al Metzger, Connie Waitner, Susan Thull, Julie Wolfe, Shannon Crampton, Gary DiPiazza, Ron Wittenberg, Tammy Burmeister, and Misty Silvis

Meetings occur Wednesdays at 10am (eastern)

Tribal Council Meeting & Work Sessions

Tribal Council publishes to the website, a weekly calendar of upcoming work sessions. Tribal Council uses the same On-Line Zoom link for their meetings and work sessions. All citizens are encouraged to attend meetings and work sessions.

Attend a Tribal Council Meeting

In-Person: 2608 Government Center Drive, Manistee, MI 49660
in the lodge located on the 2nd floor.

On-Line: Zoom Web Link: <https://zoom.us/j/99705796129>
Zoom Call-In Number: 1-929-436-2866
Zoom Meeting ID: 997 0579 6129
Zoom Passcode: 1836

Etiquette for On-Line Attendance

Identify Yourself: When asked to do so, share your first and last name along with your tribal ID number.

Mute Your Device: When you join the meeting, please mute your device. Mute again after you've spoken.

Raise Your Hand: When you want to be placed in the queue to speak, use the Zoom control to virtually raise your hand.

Tribal Council Regular Meeting Schedule for 2026

Regular Meetings have been scheduled for the following Wednesdays at 10:00 AM EST.

All regular meetings shall be held at the Government Center Lodge and via Zoom and are open to members.

Department Reports & minutes of various entities of the Tribe will be accepted during the third meeting of the month.

October 07

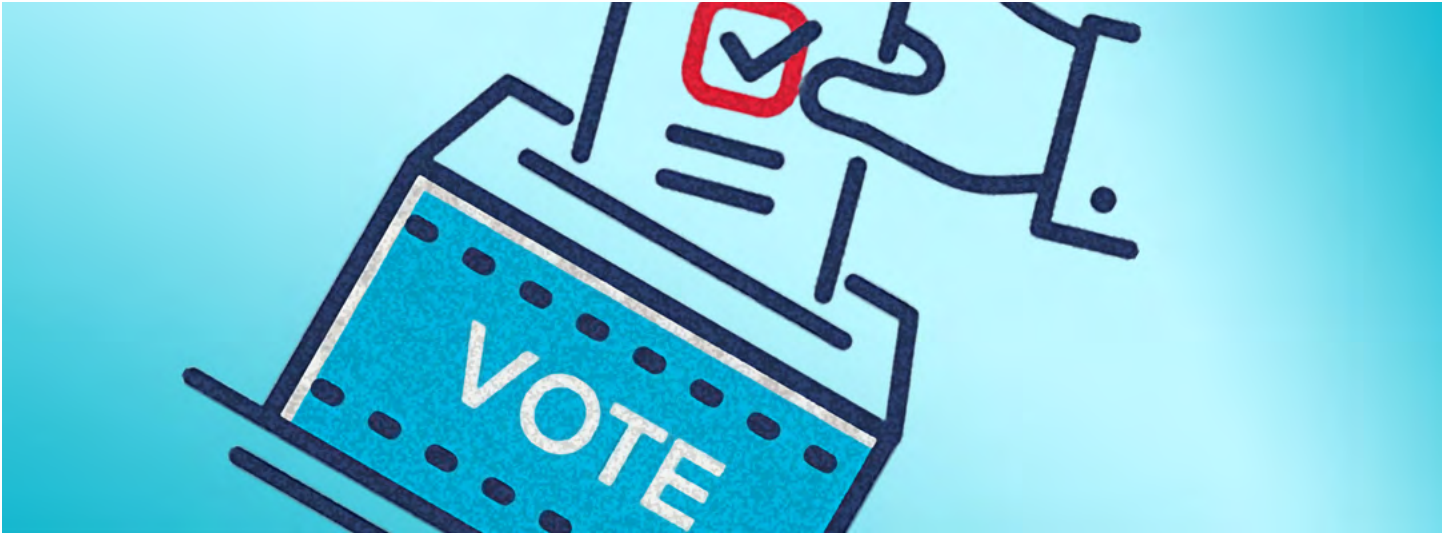
October 14

October 21

October 28



ELECTION BOARD MEETINGS



Election Board Open Meeting Schedule

Open Session Meeting Dates

	October 15
Sept 17	November 19

Engage with the Election Board

All open meetings will begin at 7:15pm. If no one joins the meeting by 7:30 pm, the open session will adjourn and transition into a closed session. To partake in the open meetings, please ensure your questions are submitted by Tuesday of the week of the meeting you plan to attend (48 hours in advance of the meeting) to electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov. This allows the Election Board ample time to prepare and address inquiries effectively.

Attend an Election Board Open Meeting

On-Line: Zoom Web Link: <https://zoom.us/j/99808338390>
Zoom Call-In Number: 1-929-436-2866
Zoom Meeting ID: 9998 0833 8390
Zoom Passcode: 743234

Etiquette for On-Line Attendance

Identify Yourself: When asked to do so, share your first and last name along with your tribal ID number.

Mute Your Device: When you join the meeting, please mute your device. Mute again after you've spoken.

Raise Your Hand: When you want to be placed in the queue to speak, use the Zoom control to virtually raise your hand.

2026 Calendar

Natural Resource Commission



September 14, 2026

October 12, 2026

November 09, 2026

December 14, 2026

**Meetings Begin at 5:00 p.m.
Government Center or Zoom**



ORANGE SHIRT DAY



Each year on September 30, people across Canada and the United States wear orange shirts to honor the Indigenous children who were taken from their families and placed in residential and boarding schools. Orange Shirt Day is a time to remember those who never returned home, recognize the survivors who continue to carry the effects of these institutions, and acknowledge the lasting impact the boarding school era has had on Native families and communities.

The message at the heart of Orange Shirt Day is simple but powerful: Every Child Matters.

The Story Behind the Orange Shirt

Orange Shirt Day began with the story of Phyllis Webstad, a member of the Stswecem'c Xgat'em First Nation in British Columbia.

In 1973, when Phyllis was six years old, she was sent to the St. Joseph Mission Residential School. Before she left, her grandmother bought her a bright orange shirt to wear on her first day. It was something new that Phyllis was proud and excited to wear.

When she arrived at the school, however, the orange shirt was taken from her and never returned.

For Phyllis, that experience came to represent much more than the loss of a piece of clothing. It represented how Indigenous children entering residential schools were stripped of their belongings, culture, language, family connections and sense of identity.

Years later, Phyllis shared her story, and the orange shirt became a symbol of remembrance and awareness.

A History That Crosses the Border

Although Orange Shirt Day originated in Canada, its message also carries deep meaning for Native people in the United States.

For more than a century, the United States operated or supported a system of Indian boarding schools intended to assimilate Native children into non-Native society. Children were often separated from their families and communities, sometimes sent hundreds of miles from home.

At many schools, children had their hair cut, were given new names and were punished for speaking their Native languages or practicing their cultures and traditions. Many experienced neglect, harsh discipline, physical or emotional abuse, inadequate food and poor living conditions.

Some children never returned home.

The consequences did not end when the schools closed. The loss of language, culture and family connections created wounds that could be carried from one generation to the next. Native communities continue working today to restore languages, traditions, family histories and cultural knowledge that boarding-school policies attempted to erase.

Every Child Matters

The words “Every Child Matters” remind us that every Indigenous child deserved—and still deserves—to grow up knowing who they are, where they come from and that their culture has value.

Orange Shirt Day is therefore about more than remembering a painful chapter of history. It is also about honoring survival.

Despite generations of policies designed to suppress Native cultures, Indigenous languages are still spoken. Ceremonies continue. Songs are still sung. Traditional knowledge continues to be passed from elders to younger generations. Tribal Nations continue to protect their sovereignty, cultures and communities.

Wearing orange is one small way of standing with boarding school survivors, remembering the children who did not come home, and recognizing the strength of generations who endured.

September 30 also provides an opportunity for families to talk about boarding school history, learn the stories of survivors, support Native language and cultural revitalization, and ensure younger generations understand this history.

Every Child Matters.



What Proposed 2030 Census Changes Could Mean for Native Americans

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census provides a picture of who lives in the United States and where. The information collected helps determine political representation, guide federal funding and shape decisions about programs and services across the country.

For Native people and Tribal Nations, an accurate census is especially important. Census information helps ensure Native communities are represented in federal data and provides information used to make decisions about funding, voting rights, housing, health care and other essential services.

In September, the Trump administration proposed major changes to the 2030 Census. Among the proposals are eliminating questions about race and ethnicity from the census questionnaire and changing which residents are included when determining congressional representation. If adopted, the changes could have significant consequences for Native communities.

Native People Could Become Less Visible in Federal Data

One of the biggest concerns is the proposal to eliminate race and ethnicity questions. The 2020 Census allowed people to identify as American Indian or Alaska Native and provide information about their Tribal affiliation. Without a similar question in 2030, it would become much more difficult to determine where Native people live and accurately measure Native populations. That information has uses beyond simply counting people. Census race data helps with drawing electoral districts, enforcing civil rights protections and understanding disparities affecting communities. Removing Native identity from the census could leave Tribal Nations with less reliable information when advocating for their citizens and demonstrating community needs.

Tribal Sovereignty and Federal Responsibilities

The relationship between Tribal Nations and the federal government is unique. Federally recognized Tribes are sovereign political entities, and the United States has treaty and trust responsibilities to Tribal Nations. Reliable population data can help the federal government determine where resources are needed and whether programs are adequately serving Native communities. Tribal governments also use demographic information when planning for housing, health care, education, transportation, language programs, emergency services and economic development. Not every Tribal program receives funding directly through a census-based formula, but inaccurate or incomplete population information can make planning more difficult and can affect the information available when Tribes seek resources.

Concerns About Native Voting Rights

Another major concern involves voting rights. Census race data is used when drawing political districts and evaluating whether Native voters have been divided among districts or concentrated in ways that weaken their ability to elect candidates of their choice. The issue has become particularly important following recent court decisions affecting Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which has historically been an important legal tool for challenging racial discrimination in voting and redistricting. Without detailed census race data, identifying and demonstrating potential discrimination against Native voters could become more difficult.

Changes to Congressional Representation

The proposal could also change how states' populations are calculated for representation in Congress. Currently, the census counts everyone who usually lives in a state when determining how the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives are divided among the states. Under the proposed changes, that calculation would instead be based on U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents. Native citizens would continue to be included. However, excluding other residents could lower the official population totals used for representation in some states. That could potentially affect the number of representatives a state receives in the U.S. House and, as a result, its number of Electoral College votes.



FAMILY SPIRIT PROGRAM INVITES YOU TO

ROCK YOUR MOCS

- A kickoff event to prepare for Rock Your Mocs Week, come make your own pair on Wednesday October 7th
- Bead your Moccasins on Monday October 12th
- Finish and repair your mocs on Wednesday October 28th

**All materials
provided!**



6:30-8:30 pm each day
Aki Community Center
Please bring a snack to share
if you can

Space is LIMITED
To register text Holly at
231-655-9391



Food Distribution

October 2026 Closure Dates

- Oct. 8th: Closed due to limited staffing
- Oct. 9th: Closed for USDA truck
- Oct. 15th: Closed for food drops
- Oct. 22nd: Closed for LRBOI all staff meeting
- Oct. 29th: Closed for food drops
- Oct. 30th: Closed for inventory

**Dates subject to change*



Little Changes That Can Make A BIG Difference!

1. Drink More Water and be active
2. Eat Breakfast
3. Watch Your Portion Sizes
4. Make Half Your Plate Fruits and Vegetables
5. Prepare Healthy Snacks
6. Read Your Food Labels



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
		Volunteers are needed to help with meals if interested please contact Jenn 231-398-6886	
04 Coffee, milk and water are available at every meal.	05 Chicken Sandwich on WG Bun w/lettuce and Tomato. Potato Salad Fruit Cocktail	06 Beef Stew with WG Dinner Roll Lima Beans Orange slices	07 Chicken Pasta w/ Mixed V WG C Bread an
Questions? Please contact Jenn Carver @ 231-398-2813	12 Homemade Chili. Corn Bread Carrot and Peppers Strips	13 Grilled Chicken Thighs w/gravy Potatoes. Peas and Butter Beans. Fruit	14 October 14th Celebration Come Celebrate with all having Bir Octo Roast Por
	19 Stuffed Green Pepper Soup Biscuits Corn Fruit	20 Ham & Scalloped Potato Casserole Peas Dinner Roll and Dessert	21 Past Meat Mixed V Garlic Fru
	26 Shrimp Stir Fry Veggies Rice Fruit	27 Chicken Corn Chowder. Bread Bowl. 1/2 Veggie Sandwich Fruit	28 Beef F Sauteed & Oni Refried Salsa & Cre

al Menu 2026



Meals served at 12 o'clock
 **No Charge to Elders, their Spouse and Handicap/
 Disabled individuals who reside with Elder.
 **Guests Meals are \$6.00

Donations are appreciated and will be used
 For activities and food.



	Thu	Fri	Sat
	01 Salisbury Steak w/ Gravy. Mashed Potatoes. Corn Casserole. Fruit	02 Muskegon Meal !! 11:30 am B.I.N.G.O	03 Fall Membership Meeting @ LRCR
Alfredo broccoli Veggies Garlic and Fruit	08 Butternut Squash Soup. Cheddar Biscuits. Bean Salad. Fruit 12:30 pm Join Jenn for Root Beer Floats	09 9:30 am Coffee Meet&Greet Light Breakfast Come meet Family Services Leader Janeen Gannon. Get to know her!	10 Looking to hire part time cafete- ria worker for Elders Meal Program. Con- tact Human Re- sources 231-398-6854
Birthday on Lunch celebrate Elders birthdays in ber k Lunch	15 Baked Fish Broccoli Rice Casserole. Stewed Tomatoes and Fruit	16 Muskegon Meal !! 11:30 am	17
a & balls Veggies Bread uit	22 Bratwursts on WG Bun. Sauerkraut Baked Sweet Potato Dessert	23	24
ajitas Peppers ions. Beans. & Sour am	29 Hot Turkey/ Cheese/Ham Sliders on Hawai- ian Buns Sauteed Cabbage Dessert	30 10 am AKI B.I.N.G.O & Lunch Goooolash! Peas & Pearled Onions. Dinner Roll Fruit	31 
		Menu subject to change with out notice. Meals meet 1/3 of the RDI based on a 1600 to 2000 calorie diet.	





LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS ANNUAL HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING

October 8,
2026

1 – 2 pm

Aki
Community
Center

Manistee, MI

Your Voice. Your Community.

Please join us for our

Annual Meeting & Community Discussion.

We will review and discuss the results of the recent
housing survey.

Drawing: Attend for a chance to win a **\$50 gas card!**





Harper Lou's Bowtique

When in doubt put a bow on it



Aanii, My name is Sara Crampton and I am a LRBOI tribal member. I'm a stay at home Mother to three beautiful children and recently I've turned a hobby of mine into a small business. I started making hair bows for my Daughter because I wanted her to have bows that matched every single outfit, sport, or event she did. We got so many compliments everywhere we went that I decided to start making them for everyone to enjoy. I use vegan leather and love to make polymer clay accessories to make my bows unique. I strive to take custom orders and to make sure you have a bow for every outfit and occasion. We can be found on Facebook and Instagram at Harper Lou's Bowtique and reached at ThatBowThough23@gmail.com for any inquiries.





TACTICAL TREATS

USCCA Accredited CPL Instruction

Weekly Classes

1. Basic Hand Gun knowledge & Cleaning

This class will show the student the differences in Hand Gun calibers, their uses & effectiveness. There will be no live ammunition in class! (snap caps only) Basic mechanics of how most hand guns function.

We will also be covering types of Holsters, Hand Gun cleaning & effective Storage,

2. Dry Fire Laser Training

This class will help improve Handgun accuracy & Trigger control using Snap caps, Striker caps & Lasers in conjunction with an elite shooting performance system designed to increase consistency by recording shot by shot analysis. The student will see in real time their subtle hand movements & learn " Proper Grip " "Avoiding Recoil Anticipation" "Trigger Press Movement" "Follow Through" Just to name a few.

3. CPL Certification Class

Successful completion of this class will allow you to apply for a Concealed Carry Permit (CCW). See MI state laws.

4. CPL RENEWAL Certification Class

Successful completion of this 4 hr.class will allow you to re-apply for a Concealed Carry Permit (CCW). See MI state laws.

**TO SIGN UP FOR A CLASS GO TO: USCCATRaining.COM
OR CHECK OUT MY WEBSITE TacticalTreats.COM
OR FEEL FREE TO GIVE ME A CALL, (231)220-5207**

Kequom's Crafts

Native Made

- Turtle bags
- Chokers
- Dream catchers
- Medicine bags
- Beaded earrings
- Feather earrings
- Bracelets
- Beaded necklaces

Email Steve at
terriebrodock@yahoo.com



Online Shopping

Authentic
Native
American Made

- Beaded Earrings
- Dream Catchers
- Smudge wands
and more

Anishinaabe
Homestead
Victoria Wells
Owner/Artist
P. 231-655-1773



photo by Canva

Please visit me online at
[etsy.com/shop.AnishinaabeHomestead](https://etsy.com/shop/AnishinaabeHomestead)

