

MAY
2023


THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

HOTEHIMINIKISFWA
"Strawberry month"

YA'SASILAWIIYAKWE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (LITERALLY, “WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO”)

MAY 1	MONTHLY BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING* MIAMI, OK	JULY 10	MONTHLY BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING* MIAMI, OK
MAY 21	FIRST ANNUAL SHAWNEE SCHOLARS BANQUET CLASS OF 2023 – RSVP BY MAY 19. MORE INFO ON PG. 5	JULY 15	OKLAHOMA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES OUTREACH DAY WILLS, PROBATE, ESTATES AND END-OF-LIFE LEGAL DOCUMENTS MORE INFO ON PG. 6
MAY 29	OFFICES CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY	AUGUST 7	MONTHLY BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING* MIAMI, OK
JUNE 5	MONTHLY BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING* MIAMI, OK	SEPT 4	OFFICES CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY
JUNE 15	VIDEO PRESENTATION DEADLINE YOUTH LANGUAGE FAIR PARTICIPANTS		
JUNE 16	ELECTION FILING DEADLINE MORE INFO ON PG. 17 PROJECT DEADLINE YOUTH LANGUAGE FAIR PARTICIPANTS		

 * Note regarding the monthly meetings of the Shawnee Tribe Business Council (STBC): At their regular monthly meeting on September 6, 2022, STBC unanimously voted to adopt a new rule of parliamentary procedure for all meetings of the Shawnee Tribe Business and General Council informally known as a “second read rule.” The second read rule stipulates that the Council may not act on new business during the same meeting in which said business is first introduced. In essence, tribal business must be introduced for a first read and discussion in one meeting, then the Council may take action in a subsequent meeting.

Dates & times for special meetings to accommodate the second read rule will be posted on the Tribe’s website at shawnee-nsn.gov/events.



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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

We recognize that digital communications via social media and the internet are not necessarily preferred by or accessible to every citizen of the Shawnee Tribe. As such, we will always strive to introduce new services & programs for citizens through the Shawnee Journal or other direct mailings to all citizens before we broadcast them on our website or social media channel(s).

FOLLOW US!
Follow the official Shawnee Tribe Facebook, YouTube and Instagram accounts @saawanooki.

KNOW ANY SHAWNEES WHO'VE MOVED RECENTLY?

Let them know to update their address with our enrollment department so they continue receiving tribal news!

PIYEETAACIMOOWENEEFA “LITTLE NEWS MESSAGES”

Get Shawnee Tribe news and updates once a month by subscribing to our e-newsletter. Sign up at shawnee-nsn.gov/newsletter or scan here with your smartphone.



KIWIITAMAAKONAAKI HOKIMAAKI

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEFS



**CHIEF
BEN BARNES**

Elsewhere in the newsletter, Chiefs Baldrige and Sparkman tell a bit of the tribe’s history, as well as how fast we’ve grown. The Shawnee Tribe has nearly doubled our population of citizen since 2019, and so, I think the retrospective that the Chiefs have offered is not just timely, but informative. In my short article, I want to do likewise.

Chief Sparkman left the tribe in an excellent position for growth, but we could not foresee exactly how we would grow. Not just our population, but the economic benefit of the casino did not take the seven years we anticipated it would for us to retire the debt. We immediately began to see distributions to the tribal nation. The Business Council was ready, as we had spoken to other tribal nations that had traveled the road that we now found ourselves on. Prior to the casino opening, we had set up the regulatory body, tribal court and codes, as well as a fiscally responsible plan based on the best advice available to us in Indian Country.

A few years ago, at the General Council, we introduced our revenue allocation plan that would take stock of our citizens’ needs through a census, as well as budgeting the future casino distributions into three buckets: government, economic development, and strategic reserve. I know that this Business Council, as well as the team of Shawnees we have serving on Shawnee Development, have been tactical in our administration

of the Tribe’s resources. Very soon, there will be some exciting details announced about a future expansion that will further increase the Shawnee Tribe’s ability to provide for her people.

This expansion will add stability and longevity to the strength of the economic engine we have built, as has the work this Business Council has done to protect our tribe against the occasional misguided policies from our trustee in Washington. The Business Council were warriors for the Shawnee people during the coronavirus pandemic when the United States’ Treasury said we were a zero people, that we had no right to any monies for coronavirus relief through the CARES Act. Even when we lost our initial lawsuit, there was not a single moment of hesitancy from them. The Business Council of that time unanimously decided to appeal. And we prevailed.

Since then, we have seen more than five million dollars in relief go out to our people, thanks to our staff’s hard and swift work. We also obtained an additional seventeen million dollars, and we are excited to announce very soon the details about how we will utilize those funds to further improve the lives of Shawnee People.

The future of our nation at the Shawnee Tribe is extremely bright, and it is because of the leadership we have seen from this Council, both present and past.

niyaawe, hiini leki. nekocaye.

Chief Ben Barnes



**SECOND CHIEF
ROY
BALDRIDGE**

caaki wiyeefa (everyone)—

I hope that all are doing well. Although we are still playing catch-up from the COVID epidemic, the Shawnee government and staff have been working hard to continue providing new programs and services, many of which were added in just the last year. For those citizens who still have a copy of the 2018 General Council report, you can see how incredible 2022 was in comparison. We have gone from a staff of 11 to a staff of 50, not counting the employees at Golden Mesa Casino in Guymon.

Led by Chief Barnes and supported by the Business Council, the Shawnee government has been working with Shawnee Development, led by Chris Floyd and Global Gaming (Chickasaw Nation), on a casino expansion to include the construction of a new hotel on our Guymon property. We have been, and will continue, managing our growth by reviewing and approving policies & controls for the tribe’s personnel, government, and business operations.

We have come a long way in a short time to get where we are today. It was not easy by any means. There were times when it looked like we were not going to make it.

In the 2000 omnibus bill that allowed us to separate from the Cherokee

Nation, there were specific mandates stating that we could not place land into trust (i.e., the first step to opening a major gaming operation) without Cherokee Nation’s permission. It further stated that we could not go anywhere in Oklahoma currently occupied by any other tribe. That left two areas in Oklahoma—the panhandle and Oklahoma County.

Since the 1990s, the Shawnee Tribe has made efforts to engage with the State of Kansas, because our last reservation is inside Kansas’ borders. In the 2000s, the Shawnee Tribe fought the State of Kansas and the US Government over the Sunflower Ammunition Plant, which was on Shawnee territory and being decommissioned during that time. We have never forgotten our Kansas reservation and our ties to that place. Many of us have family buried there, as with the Shawnee cemetery that was returned to our tribe through an act passed by the Kansas legislature approximately one year ago.

In closing, I will say that I see firsthand how hard Chief Barnes and our staff work every day. I see how dedicated and engaged our Business Council are in trying to do what they feel is right for our families/citizens. We are here because of the hard work done by our staff and our leaders, past and present. We are in a good place today, and we all share the same goal of building and preserving a future that is filled with opportunity and security.

niyaawe (thank you),

Roy D. Baldrige
Second Chief

THE SHAWNEE TRIBE BUSINESS COUNCIL



**SECRETARY
CAROLYN
FOSTER**



**TREASURER
MARK
McDOWELL**



**SEAT 1
CAROLYN
SMITH**



**SEAT 2
DIANA
McLEAN**



**SEAT 3
SCOTT
SECONDINE**



**SEAT 4
COREY
WINESBURG**



**SEAT 5
MONTY
COOMBES**



**SEAT 6
LEE
BLUEJACKET**



**SEAT 7
KENI
HOOD**

HONORING OUR ★ SHAWNEE ★ SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2023

OKLAHOMA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES OUTREACH DAY

The Higher Education & Social Services Department is excited to announce that the Shawnee Tribe will celebrate the Class of 2023 with tasseled graduation honor cords and medallions!

Citizens graduating from high school, GED, certificate, and vocational programs will receive a tasseled honor cord, and those graduating from undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs will receive an engraved medallion bearing the seal of the Shawnee Tribe.

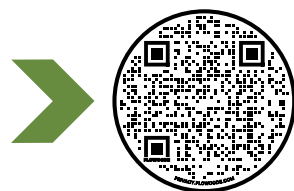
Additionally, Class of 2023 graduates and two of their guests are invited to join us for the First Annual Shawnee Scholars Banquet. Dinner will be provided.

Please RSVP no later than noon on Friday, May 19.

**SUNDAY
MAY 21, 6PM**

SHAWNEE TRIBE
COMMUNITY BUILDING
108 S. EIGHT TRIBES TRAIL
MIAMI, OK 74354

VISIT [SHAWNEE-NSN.GOV/GRADS](https://www.shawnee-nsn.gov/grads) OR
SCAN HERE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE
TO REQUEST YOUR GRADUATION
HONOR CORD OR MEDAL AND RSVP
FOR THE SCHOLARS BANQUET TODAY



For assistance via phone or email, contact us:
education@shawnee-tribe.com
(918) 542-244, ext. 129

GRADUATION HONORS FOR SHAWNEE STUDENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!



College & University graduates including
masters and doctoral grads, will receive
a 2.5" engraved honor medallion

High school and technical school
graduates will receive an honor cord
with 1" enamel charm



WILLS, PROBATE, ESTATES AND END-OF-LIFE LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Citizens who would like assistance with preparing an advance directive or will, making plans for their estate, probates or other end-of-life legal needs are invited to register to attend the Shawnee Tribe & Oklahoma Indian Legal Services (OILS) Outreach Day this summer.

**MONDAY
JULY 10**
10AM-6PM
BY APPOINTMENT

SHAWNEE TRIBE
COMMUNITY BUILDING
108 S. EIGHT TRIBES TRAIL
MIAMI, OK 74354

Please call Shawnee Court Clerk Rodney Edmondson at (918) 542-2441, ext. 108 to get connected with OILS for registration and appointment scheduling. Appointments will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis. Walk-ins will be accepted as time allows.

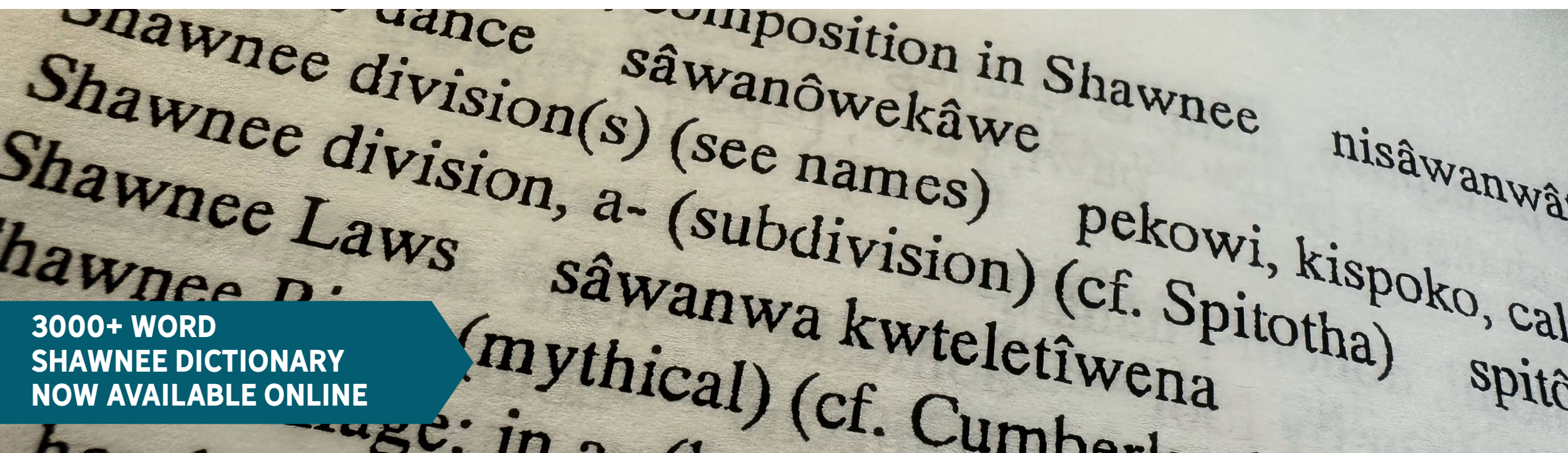


OILS attorneys are only licensed to practice law in the state of Oklahoma. Citizens with legal needs outside Oklahoma should still contact us, as OILS and the Tribe may be able to provide a reference to other resources.

MAALAAKWAHI KE'NEEMEPE:

SHAWNEE LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM (SLIP)

“LET’S LOOK CLOSER”



**3000+ WORD
SHAWNEE DICTIONARY
NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**

For the past three years, staff linguist Anastasia Miller-Youst has been gathering thousands of Shawnee words and phrases, leading teams of interns, and working with SLIP’s first language specialist George Blanchard and community language preservationists (CLPs) on a massive undertaking—creating a searchable archive and online dictionary for saawanwaatoweewe (Shawnee language).

Part of the Indigenous Languages Digital Archive (ILDA), the dictionary is now available to all Shawnee people and language learners. The Shawnee ILDA also serves as a central archive for the primary sources used by the Shawnee Language Immersion Program’s curriculum development and research projects.

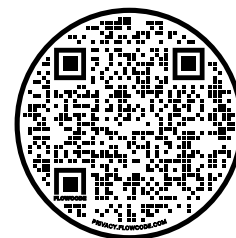
“When Terry Hinsley joined the team as a CLP, I knew he had the

understanding of the language to help make it a reality,” said Anastasia. “He took the materials I gave him, expanded them, and also added audio for every single entry.”

Anastasia and the SLIP team have populated the dictionary with over 3,000 words and phrases thus far and will continually add more. Users may also submit requests for words they’d like to see added by using the dictionary’s feedback feature.

“It really was a team effort because as Terry was making entries, he would ask me questions about grammar rules, and we would often go to George Blanchard with all sorts of questions to help us make accurate entries. We have already created such a valuable resource and we’re not even done yet.”

**SCAN HERE TO SIGN UP
FOR THE SHAWNEE ILDA
DICTIONARY**



Current users of SLIPstream, the Tribe’s online classroom portal, can access the Shawnee ILDA Dictionary by clicking the announcement banner at the top of the homepage after logging on and requesting an account using the provided link.

If you are not enrolled in SLIPstream but would like access to the classroom portal, please email shawneelanguage@shawnee-tribe.com or call (918) 542-2441, ext. 109 for assistance.

TA KEEWAKI:

LEARN SHAWNEE NUMBERS AND COLORS WITH THIS CARD GAME

George Blanchard and Karl Meyer spent much of the last year hard at work developing ta keewaki (not yet!), a Shawnee card game for 3-10 players. Nostalgic and familiar as far as the rules of gameplay, ta keewaki helps players learn how to speak and read colors and numbers in saawanwaatoweewe (Shawnee language).

Citizens and SLIP participants may order up to three decks (pay only shipping). Orders will be accepted through May 31 and will ship in early June.



**SCAN HERE TO PLACE
YOUR ORDER ONLINE:**

or call (918) 542-2441 to place your order over the phone.



2023 SHAWNEE YOUTH LANGUAGE FAIR & STOMP DANCE

Join us on Saturday, July 15 in Miami for the final judging and awards for our language fair participants. Dinner and stomp dance will follow.

**SATURDAY
JULY 15**

MIAMI TRIBAL COUNCIL HOUSE
2309 NEWMAN ROAD
MIAMI, OK 74354
(APPROXIMATELY 0.5 MILES WEST
OF PRAIRIE SUN CASINO)

5:00 PM Language Fair & Awards Presentation
7:00 PM Dinner and stomp dance

Questions? Contact SLIP Director Joel Barnes
joel@shawnee-tribe.com or (918) 542-2441, ext. 118.

WEEMEYAKWE:

Recent Shawnee History

“WHERE WE ARE FROM”

Introduced in the February 2023 issue of the Shawnee Journal, this section will bring you something slightly different each quarter, always through the lens of sharing Shawnee Tribe history or news updates from the various places to which the tribe is tied. We hope that the news and stories shared here will help bridge the gap between where we are today and weemewaaci saawanooki (where Shawnee people came from).

With historic footprints in 26 of the United States, as well as Canada and Mexico, Shawnee history is long, vast and diverse. But what does the most recent chapter of our Tribe’s history look like?

After prolonged & continual western encroachment forced Shawnees into Missouri and then eastern Kansas around the turn of the 19th century, abuse from settlers before, during and after the Civil War forced most of our ancestors to relocate to Cherokee Nation in the mid-1800s. In 1896, the US Government led a formal agreement by and between the Shawnee Tribe and the Cherokee Nation in which Shawnees received allotments and citizenship within the Cherokee Nation.

Later, Public Law 106-568 restored the sovereign Indian nation status of the Shawnee Tribe, paving the way for the Tribe’s government administration as we know it today, a mere two decades later.

Since the beginning of 2021, nearly 1,000 Shawnees have registered their tribal citizenship with the enrollment office, bringing the official number of Shawnee Tribe citizens to more than 4,000 people. With such rapid growth in a very brief amount of time, we sat down with two tribal elders & elected officials to learn more about the most recent key moments in Shawnee Tribe history and ask them what they most want newly enrolled citizens to know about weemeyakwe (where we come from).

Ron Sparkman was first elected as Chief of the Shawnee Tribe in 2001 and served until his retirement in 2019. Second Chief Roy Baldridge has been a member of the Business Council since 2001 and has served in his current role since 2019. In conversation with each other, they discussed several things they feel were crucial to the early days of our contemporary government.

When asked about the earliest Business Council meetings, Second Chief Baldridge said, “You know I look back now, and

I think of whenever we were meeting in White Oak and I think about the people that were on the council then that are no longer with us. You know like Georgie Honey, Shirley Staubus... I think it was one of the Daughertys...”

“Let me tell you one story about that,” added Former Chief Sparkman. “He mentioned Georgie, who was our Tribal Treasurer. We had practically zero dollars. And one time, to pay our bills, she and Bill, her husband, took \$800 out of their personal account and put it in the Shawnee Tribe’s name so we could pay our bills. Now that’s where we started.

“AND NOW YOU SEE ALL THE FUNDS AND THINGS THAT WE HAVE... ALL 4,000 TRIBAL MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW THAT OUR ANCESTORS... THAT’S HOW WE STARTED. THEY PUT MONEY OUT OF THEIR BACK POCKET IN THERE.”

Former Chief Sparkman and Second Chief Baldridge also discussed the importance of key relationships with other tribal nations and outside organizations, other personal sacrifices made by the earliest members of our Business Council, and explained how our base roll and citizenship eligibility was determined.

View the full conversation by searching “saawanooki” on YouTube.



**SECOND CHIEF
ROY BALDRIDGE**



**FMR. CHIEF
RON SPARKMAN**

WATCH CHIEF SPARKMAN & SECOND CHIEF BALDRIDGE'S FULL CONVERSATION

AND OTHER RECENT VIDEOS ON THE @SAAWANOOKI YOUTUBE CHANNEL!



WEEMEYAKWE: RECENT SHAWNEE HISTORY

WITH SECOND CHIEF ROY BALDRIDGE & FMR. CHIEF RON SPARKMAN

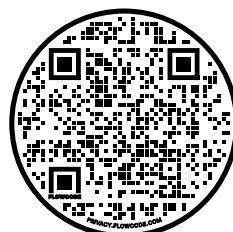
APRIL 24, 2023



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: OTIS HUGHS

(EXEC. DIRECTOR, SHAWNEE TRIBE GAMING COMMISSION)

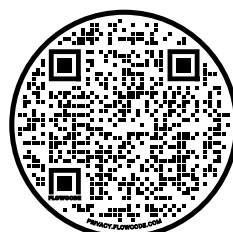
MARCH 3, 2023



WHAT IS MUNICODE?

WITH ROD EDMONDSON, SHAWNEE TRIBE COURT CLERK

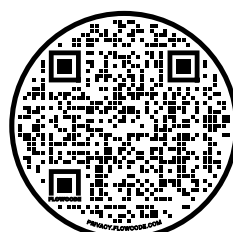
FEBRUARY 3, 2023



54TH ALGONQUIAN LANGUAGE CONFERENCE

PRESENTATION BY SHAWNEE TRIBE

NOVEMBER 2, 2022



NEPI KIM'FEELETAPE

"WE RELY ON WATER"

LOW INCOME HOUSING WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHWAP)

Through LIHWAP, the Shawnee Tribe provides tribal citizens assistance in securing and maintaining clean and safe drinking water.

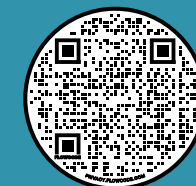
LIHWAP is available to any tribal citizen who lives in the state of Oklahoma and meets the federally mandated income requirements below. Preference is given to elders, the disabled, and homes with children under six years of age. You do not need a past-due notice or disconnection notice to qualify for LIHWAP assistance.

LIHWAP assistance is paid directly to water service providers.

If water services are included in a citizen's rent, the tribe can issue monies on the landlord's account resulting in a temporary reduction in rent. LIHWAP assistance may also be used to provide bottled water delivery for qualified citizens. Award amounts range from \$200-\$500 dollars.

VISIT [SHAWNEE-NSN.GOV/LIHWAP](https://www.shawnee-nsn.gov/lihwap) OR SCAN HERE WITH A SMARTPHONE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Email socialservices@shawnee-tribe.com or call (918) 542-2441, ext. 129 for assistance over the phone.



1 PERSON	2 PERSON	3 PERSON	4 PERSON	5 PERSON	6 PERSON
\$24,344	\$31,834	\$39,325	\$46,816	\$54,304	\$61,797

IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD SIZE IS LARGER THAN 6 PEOPLE, PLEASE CONTACT US FOR ASSISTANCE.





NEW: HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND (HAF)

The Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) will mitigate the financial hardships imposed on Shawnee Tribal Citizens during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Through HAF, eligible applicant households may receive up to \$1,500 in utility bill assistance to help with:

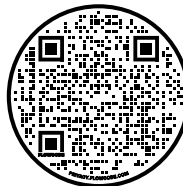
- Past-due utility bills (aka arrearages) to bring the utility account(s) into good standing
- After any arrearage has been paid, remaining awarded funds can be used for future payments to the utility account(s)

Service area: 100-mile radius of Miami, OK

The Housing Department will use the applicant's last 90 days of utility bills to determine an average monthly utility cost, which, upon application approval, will be the amount of assistance provided to the applicant for up to 3 months of future payments. Utility payments can be made for gas, electric, water, propane, and firewood. All payments will be issued directly to the utility company/ies.

VISIT [SHAWNEE-NSN.GOV/HAF](https://www.shawnee-nsn.gov/haf) OR SCAN HERE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO VIEW THE FULL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Email housing@shawnee-tribe.com or call (918) 542-2441, ext. 143 for assistance over the phone.



APRIL WAS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Our Indian Child Welfare Director and Child Care & Development Fund staff (CCDF) teamed up with their counterparts at the Quapaw Nation and others to sponsor a community pinwheel garden on April 11 and events during Week of the Young Child, April 17-21.



NIYAAWE

to those who were able to come to Coffee with the Council in Claremore, OK on Saturday, March 25. Citizens from as far as Indiana & Washington state were in attendance!



SAVE THE DATE:
GENERAL COUNCIL WEEKEND 2023
FULL DETAILS WILL BE IN THE AUGUST ISSUE.

**SEPT
15-16**

Election & General Council
meeting will be held at:
People's Community Center
at Bowlin Spring
428099 East 270 Road
Chelsea, OK 74016

2023

SHAWNEE TRIBE ELECTION

FILING INFORMATION

In accordance with the Constitution of the Shawnee Tribe (Title 6, Shawnee Tribe Elections Act), the Shawnee Tribe Election Committee announces an election shall be held on September 16, 2023, for the following elective offices ➤

FILING PERIOD

CLOSES

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

FILING FEES

Business Council Seat:

\$150.00

Office of the Chief:

\$250.00

Qualifications for candidacy are outlined in the Elections Act (rev. February 2023). Scan here with your phone's camera to view online. ➤



CHIEF

BEN BARNES, INCUMBENT

BUSINESS COUNCIL SEAT 1

CAROLYN SMITH, INCUMBENT

BUSINESS COUNCIL SEAT 2

DIANA MCLEAN, INCUMBENT

➤ **PLEASE NOTE:** The Business Council amended the Shawnee Tribe Elections Act in February 2023. Citizens can expect a special mailing from the Shawnee Tribe Election Committee with complete instructions for candidate filings and more information in the coming weeks. ➤

SUMMER RECIPES

KE'LE'FEELOPE:

"Let's Cook!"

"DIP IN POWDERED SUGAR"

FROM STEPHEN C. LOWE (GRAVETTE, AR)

"Here's one from my late Great Grandmother & her daughter, circa mid-late 1800's. Us grandkids (now in our 70's) were Army brats, so the family was stationed worldwide for years at a time. Only every few years did we return to Tulsa to see relatives, and Mom's mother to always make this treat for our first breakfast meet. No forks allowed, nor fighting—who's wants next? It's our Shawnee traditional family gathering event from the Purcell-Johnson family."

INGREDIENTS:

- Flour
- Prepared sourdough starter
- Milk

PREPARATION:

In a glass bowl, mix a tablespoon of the precious starter with milk, then add flour to make a thick batter. Cover with cotton cloth & set asides in warm area for 1 hour.

In a cast iron pan or electric fryer, heat about 2" of frying oil until bubbling.

Use fingers or spoon to pinch quarter-size bits of batter & carefully drop in the oil.

Turn batter every couple of seconds until deep brown in color, approx. 15 seconds. Ladle out & place on paper to absorb oil.

While still warm, 'dip' into small dish of power sugar, then enjoy—even if it burns your fingers & mouth!

"CAN CAN CHICKEN"

FROM MARSHA MYER (WICHITA, KS)

"These are old Girl Scouts recipes!"

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 can of cream of chicken soup
- 1 can of cream of celery soup
- 1 can of chicken breast
- 1 canful of Minute rice
- 1 canful of water

PREPARATION:

Combine ingredients and cook for 7 minutes.

"BROWNIE STEW"

FROM MARSHA MYER (WICHITA, KS)

"These are old Girl Scouts recipes!"

INGREDIENTS:

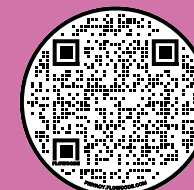
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 4 cans of vegetable soup
- 1 small can of tomato sauce

PREPARATION:

In a large pan, brown the ground beef, then add the vegetable soup and tomato sauce. Cook until heated through.

Need sourdough starter?

Many bakeries and specialty grocers sell ready-to-use starter. Or, you can scan here for a step-by-step guide from King Arthur Flour to get your own going at home!



MAY

THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

2023



SHAWNEE TRIBE
29 S HWY 69A
MIAMI, OKLAHOMA
74354 U.S.A.

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 777
OKLA CITY OK

FOLLOW
@SAAWANOOKI
ON INSTAGRAM



FOLLOW @SAAWANOOKI
AND @SHAWNEECHIEF
ON FACEBOOK



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