

LOCAL NEWS

Ground Broken for \$5.3 Million Expansion of Mohawk School

SAINT REGIS MOHAWK RESERVATION - A groundbreaking ceremony held this morning marked the beginning of a \$5.3 million capital improvement project at the Saint Regis Mohawk School in Hogansburg.

The project encompasses major renovation of the existing structure as well as new construction to provide additional classroom space and a new main entrance. The school, which currently provides pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3 instruction to primarily Mohawk students, will be expanded to include Grades 4, 5 and 6.

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council Head Chief John S. Loran, Chief Norman J. Tarbell, and Chief Philip H. Tarbell said the expansion and improvement of the Mohawk School is greatly needed and long overdue.

"This is truly an important occasion for our Mohawk children and our community," the Chiefs said in a joint statement. "We will now be able to provide the entire spectrum of elementary school services to our students while preserving our culture and passing on our language.

"We are extremely grateful to the New York State Education Department for providing the funding for this project and the State Dormitory Authority for all of its design expertise and for overseeing this project," the Chiefs added.

The project will improve the handicapped accessibility in the existing school and will better

utilize the space available. Also, the oldest part of the school will be demolished and replaced, electrical and mechanical systems will be improved, new fuel oil tanks will be installed, and the septic system will be hooked onto the Tribe's new sewer system.

Work on the project will be completed in two phases over two consecutive building seasons.

Phase I, which is scheduled for completion by September 1995, will consist of an addition on the west side of what is currently the cafeteria and Pre-K wing.

Phase II, which calls for the demolition of the 1890s-circa two-story "convent" building and replacing the space for an expanded gymnasium, new kitchen/cafeteria, administrative offices, library, and rooms for music, art and Mohawk language, will be completed by September 1996. A new main entrance and bus loading/unloading area located on the south side of the existing building will also be part of Phase II.

Nine new classrooms will be constructed to house approximately 180 new students in grades 4-6. New locker rooms and a new stage will be constructed in the gym and a corridor will be installed to route student traffic around the gym rather than the current path through it.

Asbestos removal, in anticipation of the renovation project, was completed earlier this month during the Easter recess.

A Car Wash, Bake Sale and Bottle & Can Collection will be held Saturday, May 6, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Fort Covington Fire Station and also in Hogansburg across from Wild Bill's. Proceeds from these activities will benefit the all night drug and alcohol free Graduation Part at Salmon River Central School. Your support will be appreciated.
(any questions, feel free to call Joan Cunninham at 358-2604).
Thank You!

There will be a very important planning meeting for the All Night Drug & Alcohol Free Grad Party at Salmon River Central School, Fort Covington, on Thursday, May 4th at 7 pm. All seniors and parents are urged to attend.

St. Regis Mohawk Senior Citizens' Special May Holidays

We are looking forward to two important dates on our May calendar--Native American Day on Friday, May 12, and Mothers Day on Sunday, May 14. To celebrate both occasions, we have decided to combine the two on Thursday, May 11 at the Seniors Center.

Plans are progressing and we sincerely hope everyone will join us in celebrating these two holidays. We thought it would be appropriate to combine Mothers Day with Native American Day because of the strong influence women have had in our Native culture. Let us come together to honor our mothers on May 11 at the Center.

If you have a Native dress, it would be an honor to see as many people possible dressed in such attire. If you don't, come and enjoy the day with us anyway.

Scholarships Available

Over 100,000 collegiate athletic scholarships are available each year to male and female high school and junior college student athletes. Contrary to popular belief, students don't have to be all state to qualify. Much of this money goes unused. A new publication with forms, sample letters and tables of factual information is available for student athletes. It takes them step by step through the important process of getting an athletic scholarship and includes college and conference listings.

For information on how to get a collegiate athletic scholarship, send a self addressed (business size) stamped envelope to the National Sports Foundation, 611A Willow Drive, PO Box 940, Oakhurst, NJ 07755.

