



Press Release – For Immediate Release – July 29, 2014

Contact: Mike Voll, Township Manager
609-886-2005 ext. 133
manager@townshipoflower.org

Lenape Nation to Sign Treaty of Friendship at Cultural Day

Representatives of the Lenape Nation will be landing in Lower Township on the afternoon of August 16, with the Treaty of Renewed Friendship, as part of their Rising Nation River Journey, a 150-mile canoe trip that raises the awareness of the Lenape Nation, the indigenous people of the Delaware River. Every four years since 2002, the nation, many of whom are descendants of full-blooded Lenape people and early European settlers, have signed a partnership with various organizations and individuals in maintaining the Delaware River's clean, natural, scenic beauty, said Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania Chief Shelley DePaul.

The number of those signing this nonbinding partnership, called the "Treaty of Renewed Friendship," has grown to the point where this is the first year the Lenape are canoeing down the Delaware's entire length, from Hancock, NY, to Sunset Beach in Lower Township.

"This year, from August 1 through August 17, we're bringing the treaty down the river to Lower Township and stopping at various places along the Delaware for all who wish to sign," said DePaul. This is also the first year the treaty will be in Lower Township, which according to DePaul, was the home of the turkey clan of the Lenape people.

"We came down to Lower Township about three years ago as part of World Ocean Day and made a number of connections through environmental organizations, community groups, spiritual groups, the business community and local officials," said DePaul.

"The Treaty Signing and Cultural Day is a great way for our residents and visitors to learn more about the people who originally cared for this land and what they can do to continue to help protect it," said Mayor Michael Beck. "It's also a great example of how we can all work together."

Along with maintaining the Delaware's cleanliness and beauty, the treaty includes reviving and sharing Lenape culture and language, obtaining and protecting sacred Lenape sites and encouraging updated public school curriculum about the Lenape and other Native-American nations, DePaul said.

"It brings things full circle in leaving behind past animosity between Native-Americans and whites and focuses on working together," said DePaul.

For more information about the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, its activities and the upcoming August 17 treaty-signing, visit lenapenation.org. Or contact Chief Shelley DePaul at 570-606-3509.

If you go:

The schedule of events for the arrival of the treaty at Sunset Beach on August 16 and the treaty signing

at the Cape May- Lewes Ferry terminal on August 17 are as follows:

Saturday, August 16 – Official end of the Rising Nation River Journey, a 150-mile canoe trip

1 p.m. Lenape Nation and Treaty of Renewed Friendship leaves Higbee’s Beach and will plan to arrive at Sunset Beach at 1:30 p.m. for the official ending of the river journey.

Sunday August 17 – Treaty Signing and Cultural Day beginning at 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Cape May- Lewes Ferry terminal.

10 a.m.: Storytelling with Bluejay

11 a.m.: Lenape games for children

Noon: Children's Circle with Chief Shelley DePaul

1 p.m.: A Treaty of Renewed Friendship will be signed by the Lenape and local organizations: environmental groups, churches, historical societies, and sincerely committed individuals, who wish actively to support the Lenape and to partner as caretakers of the traditional Lenape homeland and each other. All committed individuals and organizations are invited to join us and sign the Treaty.

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.: Pow Wow - Native American drummers and dancers will perform. The public is invited to take part in the dancing.

4 p.m. – 5 p.m. Native American Musical performance by Jim Beer