

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since 1949”

www.HardingCivic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2020

HESNA PFEIFFER AWARD

Seeking Nominations for the Hesna Pfeiffer Award for Civic Engagement

For many years the Harding Township Civic Association awarded its Distinguished Citizen Award to an individual or group that demonstrated significant civic engagement and volunteerism. In 2014, the award was given posthumously to Hesna Pfeiffer a thoroughly engaged citizen of Harding Township for her 15 plus years of service as the editor of the Thumbnail, the publication of the Civic Association.

Also in 2014, the Civic Association renamed the award in her honor -- The Hesna Pfeiffer Award for Civic Engagement. In making the selection in the past, the trustees have often looked at a citizen’s contributions over many years or even a lifetime. In the future the trustees will consider more recent efforts and hope that this will also encourage younger citizens and our youth to get and stay involved with our community.

The Civic Association trustees consider nominations from the town at large and anyone can nominate a candidate by sending a small essay of support to the Harding Township Civic Association, PO Box 76, New Vernon NJ 07976 or by email to htca@mail.com.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Township Committee Meeting: Menorah, Sand Spring Rd Speed Limit, and Old Library Room.

Three “discussion items” received the most focus at the October 19 TC meeting.

First, recall that at a prior meeting a rabbi asked if his community could place a menorah on Harding public grounds. He was eloquent in stating that the menorah is a symbol of light and understanding in a world that needs both. He also said that many towns in NJ allow this, and that it was a reasonable request given that Harding decorates an evergreen tree in Bayne Park during the holiday season.

At the October meeting, the TC decided against allowing the menorah, and that any religious symbols such as an angel or star on the top of the tree would not be used in 2020. The thinking seemed to be that to prevent a proliferation of religious artifacts and, to be fair to all, no religious symbols would be allowed to be displayed on Harding public property.

Second, there was a lively discussion about dropping the speed limit on Sand Spring Road. Committeeman Dev Modi ticked off a list of criteria that are used to justify cutting the speed limit -- no shoulders, many entry points, presence of walkers and joggers, etc. Public commentary was 100% in favor of reducing the speed limit. Consensus was that an ordinance to cut the speed limit would be drafted and read at the November meeting.

The third item was a plan to convert the room in Kirby Hall that housed the library before the Kemmerer Library was built to an interview room for the HT Police Department. The HTPD currently uses a room in the basement of Kirby for interviews, but that space is needed for a locker room for the new/first female police officer. Committeeman Nic Platt said that space is one of the few spaces for public meeting, and he suggested that before the old library room is given over to the use by the police, an architect should be hired to study the overall needs of the Police and the Township. Essentially a compromise was reached. As a stop gap, a door would be created from the Police Department into the old library and the room could still be available for other meetings. An architect would also be engaged to study the building and current and future space needs.

VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 11 am

Hosted by the Green Village Fire Department and Auxiliary

A Veteran's Day ceremony and laying of the wreath will be held at 11 a.m. on November 11th. All are welcome to gather at the Memorial Stone on Memorial Way (next to the Green Village Fire Department) in the Green Village section of Chatham Township.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Harding Township and Morris Township Health Departments will hold a Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs on Saturday, November 7, 2020, from 9 am to 11 am at the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department located at 22 Village Road, Harding Township, New Vernon, NJ 07976. Due to COVID-19, we will ask that everyone remain in their car and a representative from the Health Departments will approach your vehicle so that paperwork can be completed. All cats are to be in a carrier and all dogs must be on a leash. Masks are mandatory to enter into the Fire Department. Further explanation of details will be provided the day of the rabies clinic.

THE RAPTOR TRUST

The Raptor Trust is a 501 (c)(3) not for profit organization located in Millington on White Bridge Road, bordering the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. We are home to approximately 50 resident birds, an on-site medical and rehabilitation center and education center.

The Raptor Trust has a virtual program option for everyone. Learn more and sign up at our website www.theraptortrust.org/education/programs.

Raptor Conference Calls: 20 minutes with a Raptor Trust educator and one of our ambassador birds. \$30 (2 screens/households permitted)

Small Group Programs: 35-40 minutes with a Raptor Trust educator and one of our ambassador birds. \$60 (Groups of 3-15 participants)

Large Group Adult Programs: 40-45 minutes with a Raptor Trust educator and one of our ambassador birds. \$80 (Up to 50 participants)

Teacher-Moderated Class Programs: (\$80) An approximately 45 minute program led by a Raptor Trust educator and moderated by the class teacher. 25 minute lesson, 10 minute live bird introduction, 10 minutes for Q&A. Choose from a variety lesson plans that can be integrated into your existing science curriculum. (maximum 35 students & 2 teachers) Full lesson plans and supportive worksheets included with purchase.

The Raptor Trust is now offering access to our outdoor aviary trail for timed tours by appointment.

Self-guided tours by appointment: Walk along a single direction, clearly plotted course, at your own pace, to view some of the many hawks, owls, eagles, falcons, and vultures that call NJ home. Reservations are currently being offered every 30

minutes between 1:00pm and 3:30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. These private reservations are free of charge and allow you to bring a party of up to 8 people total. Masks are required.

Staff-guided tours by appointment: Join one of our staff educators for a guided tour of The Raptor Trust's outdoor aviary trail. Learn about our mission and history, visit with many of our resident raptors (hawks, owls, eagles, falcons and more!) and learn how their journeys brought them to The Raptor Trust. Reservations are currently being offered on Saturdays only, between 10am and 3pm. These private reservations are a flat rate of \$60 for up to 8 guests. Tours last approximately 40 minutes. Masks are required.

HARDING LAND TRUST

5th Annual Celebrate Harding Photo Contest Sponsored by Harding Land Trust and the Kemmerer Library Harding Township invites students in grades K through 12 from any school are invited to submit photos of landscapes, flora, fauna or wildlife (no pets) for our annual Celebrate Harding Photo Contest to photos@hardinglandtrust.org. We invite participants to submit photographs now through November 20th. The winners will be announced via Email on December 4th. Rules and submission instructions will be posted on the Harding Land Trust and Kemmerer Library website at www.hardinglandtrust.org and www.hardinglibrary.org. Photos will be displayed at the Library and posted on the Harding Land Trust website, the Kemmerer Library website, as well as the Instagram and Facebook accounts for the Harding Land Trust after the contest. The Grand Prize Winner will receive a \$100 Amazon Gift Card, and \$50 gift cards will be awarded to the first-place winner in each age group.

GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Fall Hike at Jockey Hollow

Sunday, November 8, 1:00-3:00 PM

Jockey Hollow Visitors Center

600 Tempe Wick Rd., Morristown, NJ

Venture outdoors on a crisp afternoon and experience the fabulous fall colors. We will take you on a journey through the trails of Jockey Hollow and identify the many varieties of trees and plants as they begin to prepare for a long winter's nap. We will also talk about how winter will change this landscape and how it might have looked for the Continental Army soldiers who were stationed there during the winter of 1779-1780. GSWA members: \$10, non-members: \$15, children: \$5. (Limit: 8 people.) Registration is required. Register at GreatSwamp.org or call 973-538-3500.

Evening Briefing: Virtual DIY Home Cleaning Solutions - FREE!

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30-7:30 PM

White vinegar, baking soda, and lemon juice. Believe it or not, these are the key ingredients of many environmentally safe cleaning products. And it all works! Learn about the ingredients found in our personal and household cleaning products you may want to avoid, and how products labeled as "environmentally safe" are not all created equal - and why you should be concerned. Registration is required. Register at GreatSwamp.org or call 973-538-3500. (Link will be sent to you post-registration.)

DIY Winter Wreath Outdoor Workshop (Keep or Gift)

Saturday, November 14, Time (3 options): 12-1, 1:30-2:30, 3-4 (PM)

Great Swamp Watershed Association HQ

568 Tempe Wick Rd., Morristown, NJ

Grab your warm clothing and kick off the holiday season with a homemade winter wreath made native evergreens and other native plants. Decorate with pinecones, berries, and other items found in nature. As you create, you'll learn more about the natural items used in this craft. Hot cider will be served. GSWA members \$30, non-members \$35. Price covers everything you need. (Limit: 6 people per timeslot.)

Registration is required. Register at GreatSwamp.org or call 973-538-3500.

Fall Hike at Jockey Hollow

Sun., Nov. 22, 1-3 PM

Jockey Hollow Visitors Center

600 Tempe Wick Rd., Morristown, NJ

Before the holiday rush begins, take some time out for yourself on this relaxing fall hike. Feel the leaves crunch under your feet and breathe in the fresh autumn air as we walk the trails of Jockey Hollow. Your hike leader, Adam Palmer, will help identify the many varieties of trees, plants, and animals found in these woods. He will also discuss the significance of this national park that served as an encampment site for George Washington's army in the winter of 1779-1780. GSWA members: \$10, non-members: \$15, children: \$5. (Limit: 8 people.) Registration is required. Register at GreatSwamp.org or call 973-538-3500.

Kids' Outdoor Holiday Crafting

Sun., Dec. 6 / Time (3 options): 11-12, 12:30-1:30, 2-3 (PM)

Great Swamp Watershed Association HQ

568 Tempe Wick Rd., Morristown, NJ

Kids feeling crafty? We've got the solution - 3 nature-themed DIY projects for your child to keep or give away: 1) Hanging pinecone suet birdfeeder; 2) Decorated muslin produce and/or gift bag for use at the grocery store or as a gift bag; 3) Easy-make pollinator box (no sawing) to attract native bees to your yard. Brown paper will be on-hand to wrap the gifts. Hot chocolate and snacks available for the children. GSWA members \$20, non-members \$25. Price covers all everything you need to leave with 3 finished pieces. While it's a difficult time to shop, this outdoor crafting event offers a safe, socially distant opportunity for your child to get creative with wild-life friendly, natural items. Ideal for ages 6-12 - a parent or guardian must be present. (Limit: 6 people per timeslot.) Registration is required. Register at GreatSwamp.org or call 973-538-3500.

FIRST AID SQUAD

We're coming into the flu season. If you haven't already done so, it's time to start thinking about getting your flu shot for the 2020-2021 flu season. This year the flu season is expected to be particularly harsh. While the flu shot will not protect you from COVID-19, catching the flu will adversely impact your immune system, perhaps reducing your ability to fight off other contagions, including COVID-19.

This year, there are two strengths of the flu shot available one for seniors, 65 and older, and one for younger residents. Doctors recommend that residents 65 and over get the high dose flu shot for seniors. It is four times more potent than the standard version of the flu shot.

Flu shots are available at your doctor's office, at clinics and some local pharmacies. Appointments are not generally required at pharmacy locations carrying the flu vaccine. The supply of vaccines available is not unlimited and we recommend you get your shot early, while they are available. Older patients might also want to speak to their doctors about the pneumonia vaccine and the shingles vaccine.

While you are thinking of health-related issues, the First Aid Squad hopes you will consider volunteering for the New Vernon First Aid Squad. We continue to need EMTs and drivers to fill out our ranks so that we can continue to provide the 24/7 coverage that Harding residents have always enjoyed. To learn more or to set up an appointment to volunteer email us at JOINUS@NVVFD.org. We are neighbors helping neighbors.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Santa Claus is coming to our town aboard a New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department fire truck. Yes, on the nights of **December 5th and 6th**, between 5:00 and 8:00 PM, we will be making the rounds with Santa to visit your children. In the event of an **extremely** bad rain or snowstorm on either or both evenings we will make arrangements to have Santa meet children at the firehouse on the following weekend.

Santa and his helpers will be following Covid guidelines for his visit.

- Santa will greet the children outside
- Santa will maintain 6' social distancing; no sitting on Santa's lap, etc.
- Santa's helpers will be masked up
- If for any reason you do not feel comfortable with Santa's visit, arrangements can be made to pick up a gift stocking.

In order to determine which houses we should visit, we are asking each of you to return the card sent to every Harding resident to tell us whether you have children and would like us to stop. It is most important that these cards be returned to us **before November 29th**.

Please include your phone number in case Santa's helpers have trouble locating your house. The letter sent is Santa's route schedule with a notation as to when and where we will have central meeting places.

If you have any questions please email Fire Chief Peter Finkle, nvvdchief@gmail.com.

Again this year we are proud to be a collection for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program for less fortunate children. Toys for Tots accepts only new, unwrapped toys. Toys can be given to Santa's helpers at the time of Santa's visit.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Finding the Bright Side: Healing Through Diet & Mindset" is the topic for the November 8th *Sunday Speaker Series* program led by Suzie Carpenter. Determined to improve her family's health and happiness, she became a pioneer in the grain-free movement; her family all learned the value of better-for-you ingredients. She became her daughter's partner on the journey to healthier eating. Together they discovered the power of love and the challenge to overcome autism. Daughter Kelly's

Curbside pickup of library materials remains available if you prefer. Item requests can be made directly on the MAIN catalog on our website (www.hardinglibrary.org) or you may contact us with requests by phone (973 267 2665) or email to desk@hardinglibrary.org. We are also happy to make selections for you!

We continue to accept returns of all materials to the outside book drop. All items are quarantined and sanitized before coming back into circulation.

Our eLibrary is always open! Please visit www.hardinglibrary.org and click E-LIBRARY to get started.

The Library offers use of a Zoom account to Harding clubs and groups that need a virtual meeting space. Please contact us if interested.

To keep informed about what's new on our shelves and to receive program announcements, ask to have your name added to our email list.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Outdoor Gentle Yoga, Mondays (weather permitting) at 10 am

Gentle yoga with MJ on the Library lawn. Please bring your own mat and block.

Zoom Storytime, from November 10, Tuesdays at 10:15 am

For little ones age 1-4 and their caregivers. Come meet Miss Deborah on Zoom for stories, songs and craft ideas. Join via the link posted on our website.

Bookworms Book Club, Sunday, November 15, 2:00pm

Children in grades 4-6 are invited to read 'The Girl Who Drank the Moon' by Kelly Barnhill and join us for a discussion and themed activities. Please contact us if interested!

Junior Garden Club on Zoom, 'Holiday Projects', Thursday, November 19, 3:00 pm

For children in grades K-8. Join volunteers from the New Vernon Garden Club to create fun Holiday projects using materials from Nature. Register at www.hardinglibrary.org by November 13 and pick up kits-to-go from the Library from

November 17.

Adult Book Group, Tuesday, November 17, 1:30 pm

Join us to discuss 'Transcendent Kingdom' by Yaa Gyasi. Our lively book club meets every 2 weeks (except November 3) and all are welcome! Copies of chosen titles are available from the Library in a number of formats.

'HARDING TALKS' is a new series of moderated discussions of issues important to our town, sponsored by the **Kemmerer Library**. The next in the series is:

'Who's Pulling Our Strings?' Sunday, November 15, 4:00-5:30 pm

Join us for this free webinar discussion on Social Media, with Media Psychologist and Author, Dr Joanne Broder. Topics include: Ways that social media controls us, Social media methods used to gather and sell personal information, and controlling social media on our family's devices. Please register by 11/13 on our website (www.hardinglibrary.org), by email to desk@hardinglibrary.org or by calling 973 267 2665.

FRIENDS OF THE KEMMERER LIBRARY

Enjoy crowd-free shopping at our HUGE book sale on the lower level of the Library, during library opening hours, **Wednesday, November 4 through Tuesday, November 24**. Books for all ages and interests! Very low prices! All welcome! Please observe safety measures and social distancing.

If you have books to donate to the Book Sale, please call the library (973 267 2665) to arrange drop-off before November 3. Please, only books in good condition no outdated reference books or encyclopedias.

All proceeds will directly benefit the Library.

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for the **December 2020 Thumbnail** please email to: htca@mail.com by **Friday, November 20th, 2020**. MS Word is the preferred format, thank you!

Current and past issues of the Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are available on our Website: www.HardingCivic.org. Send questions or comments about *Thumbnail* to editor to: HTCA@mail.com or PO Box 72 New Vernon, NJ 07976

HARDING TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

During the ongoing State of Emergency declared by Governor Murphy, operations at the DPW have curtailed.

Hours of Operation:

Mondays & Wednesdays: 7 am - Noon

From 7am to 8am is senior (residents 60+) recycling only. Full assistance will be provided to seniors during this period.

From 8 am until noon, recycling for all residents. No assistance will be provided during these hours.

Social distancing must be observed at all times.

Commingled Recyclables: Consists of all aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles, all plastic bottles and containers with the Recycling symbol, and #1, 2, 4, 5 & 7. Try to crush plastic bottle to conserve space. Please remember no plastic or paper bags.

Commingled Mixed Fiber: Recycling: consists of all paper, cardboard, newspaper, office paper, magazines, and books. Please put loose or shredded paper in paper bag. Please flatten all boxes or fill with other paper products.

Other Accepted Items: Batteries; automotive (car) and household (rechargeable accepted); Automotive and light truck tires, (on or off rim), Propane tanks (BBQ size only) and fluorescent bulbs (tube and compact).

E-Waste items accepted: Computers, monitors, laptops and televisions cannot be put into household trash. However, all E-waste items including printers, copiers, fax machines and all computer peripherals can be brought to the Harding DPW recycling center at the regular hours of operation.

Recycling Questions: Please contact Tracy Toribio at Harding Department: 973 267 2448, Mon- Fri 8:30 am to 3 pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Environmental Commission
Seniors: Christ the King Church
Planning Board
Historical Preservation Committee
Board of Health
Board of Education
Board of Adjustment
Township Committee Executive
Township Committee Public
Harding Open Space
Harding TWP Civic Association

Meetings as noted

1st Wednesday
2nd & 4th Thursday
4th Monday
1st Thursday
2nd Thursday
1st & 3rd Monday
3rd Thursday
2nd Monday
2nd Monday
2nd Wednesday
2nd Tuesday

Time

7:30 PM
11:00AM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:00 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM

DATED MATERIAL

Harding Township Civic Association
P.O. Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976
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