

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since 1949”

www.HardingCivic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2020

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Township Committee November Meeting - 100 Year Old Resident, Roads, Tunis Ellis House, Menorah

Walter Ness Turns 100 on November 24: By the time you read this, Walter Ness, a 63 year resident of Harding, will be 100. A WW2 Navy vet, Mr. Ness was involved in many town activities and organizations - Presbyterian Church, Cub Scouts, American Legion, VFW, Harding Seniors, and many others -- while working for 34 years at Bell Labs. The Committee recognized Mr. Ness for his community spirit, dedication to Harding and heart health awareness.

Road Safety: Safety on two Harding roads was discussed. First, Dr. D’Urso, resident of a home on the dogleg of Kitchell Road, asked if the town could install a street light so cars coming from Woodland Ave. towards Spring Valley Rd. know that the tight turn is ahead. Dr D’Urso said that cars have missed the turn and ended on his front lawn. He believes there was a light but it might have been removed in a carbon emission reduction move. Nic Platt volunteered to look into the problem.

Second, an ordinance to drop the speed limit on Sand Spring Road speed limit from 35 to 25 mph was discussed. Some members of the public pushed back on the speed limit reduction. Residents of the road were for the reduction. Landscaper rigs were cited as a major problem, but it was noted that there is no ordinance against these. Schemes to make the reduction on just a part of Sand Spring and install warning signs were brought up. Speed limits cannot be changed without an engineering study. The study to drop the limit on the entire road has been completed while a study for a partial reduction would have to be done.

Tunis Ellis House: The Tunis Ellis house is the 1795 structure at the corner of Village and Millbrook roads. Significant deterioration has been revealed by a \$10K study of the building. About \$68K of work on the foundation is needed immediately and a total of \$200K is required over the long term. The all-volunteer Harding Historical Society is asking for help from Township engineer Paul Fox to review the bids. The funds for the work would be raised from private sources and Morris County.

Support for Menorah Voiced: After the township passed a resolution on Township employee salary resolutions, the TC allowed comments from the public. Approximately 6 members of the public voiced support to permit the placement of a menorah on public property, in the spirit of inclusiveness. Recall that two months ago, a rabbi made the original request for the menorah -- a symbol of light and understanding. At last month's TC meeting, the TC decided not to allow the menorah and to be even-handed to remove any religious symbols (ex. angel) from the Christmas tree at Bayne Park and inside Kirby Hall. One of the commenters cited a 1989 Supreme Court ruling that a menorah is not a religious symbol. The members of the public who commented all supported the menorah and asked the TC to reconsider its decision.

Meeting was adjourned.

HELP FOR HARDING

Help for Harding started in March 2020 in the midst of the COVID pandemic to assist senior citizens and those with underlying health conditions with errands and check-ins. Our volunteers are excited to keep our services going! Please contact Elizabeth Sovolos at helpforharding@gmail.com or 862-246-7648 if you need help with:

- Local errands (grocery, pharmacy, hardware store, post office)
- Welfare check-ins
- Driving to/from medical appointments
- Online shopping or appointments
- Questions about things going on in town
- Small favors around the house

Our team of nearly 100 volunteers and counting is eager to help - we look forward to hearing from you!

HARDING BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Education Meeting Information

The next BOE meeting is December 7, 2020 at 7pm.

Remote: Please dial 1-732-447-9901 Conference Code: 661121

BOE information can be located on the website:

Hardingtwp.org under the Board of Education Tab

NEW VERNON GARDENING CLUB

Season's Greetings! This holiday, the wreaths displayed around our town have been donated by the Club in support of our local businesses during these unprecedented times. We would like to thank Country Mile Garden Center for partnering with us to help make this possible.

Happy Holidays to all!

GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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

Right about now, your kids are likely ready to get outside and do something fun. We've got the solution with 3 nature-themed DIY projects for your child to keep or give away: 1) Hanging pine cone suet birdfeeder; 2) Decorated muslin produce/gift bag for use at the grocery store or gift-giving; 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 will be served. 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. GSWA members \$20, non-members \$25. Space is limited/registration is required. Register at GreatSwamp.org or call 973-538-3500.

Intermediate Hike at Hedden County Park

Sunday, December 12, 1:00-3:00 PM

Hedden County Park, 124 Reservoir Ave., Randolph, NJ 07869

Ready to get your blood pumping? Join us for intermediate, winter hike through Hedden Park, a magnificent piece of the Morris County Park Commission. Trails traverse the Wallace Brook and cross Jackson Brook on this challenging hike. We will check out Indian Falls, a scenic point of interest along the Green Trail, and take in the natural beauty of the park. If you like, bring along a snack and some water in a reusable bottle. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear. Space is limited/registration is required. Register at GreatSwamp.org or call 973-538-3500.

HARDING TOWNSHIP RECREATION ASSOCIATION

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR HTRA FAMILIES FOR YOUR PATIENCE DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME!

We are coming to a close for our Fall season which included soccer, field hockey and lacrosse.

Unfortunately our Winter sports are cancelled. This includes basketball clinics and games as we do not have facilities available to HTRA for this season. Ski Club is also closed.

We expect and are planning to have a full Spring season, please check our website often for changes and updates.

www.HTRA.info

FIRST AID SQUAD

Have you seen our recent Mailer in your mailbox? Are you the neighbor we can't live without?

The First Aid Squad continues to need both men and women, as drivers and EMT's, to help save the lives of our next door neighbors and friends here in Harding. Harding has a long and proud heritage of being a town of volunteerism. Please continue that heritage

The First Aid Squad continues to need volunteers to provide the 24/7 coverage that Harding residents have enjoyed for more than 47 years. Please consider volunteering now, or to learn more about the First Aid Squad, contact:

- Lotte Newlin - 862-812-9997
- Larry Wepler - 917-838-3332
- Kevin Murphy - 973-570-7032

Or email us at this address: JoinUs@NVVFD.org

We are "Neighbors helping Neighbors."

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

NVVFD Auxiliary New Fundraiser

NVVFD Auxiliary Fundraiser is excited to announce we have partnered with Pamela Cassidy Designs to create a whimsical, colorful map of Downtown New Vernon. Featured items for sale are a 100% Cotton canvas Tote Bag for \$16, a decorative 100% cotton huck Kitchen Towel for \$12 and a package of 8 linen paper Notecards and envelopes for \$10. To view these unique items for purchase go to <https://nvvfd-map-of-new->

vernon.myshopify.com/ or call Anne Quinn 908-433-0972

NVFD is a non-profit organization. We are completely independent and raise all of our funds without any tax support.

CENTER FOR MUSICAL EXCELLENCE

Center for Musical Excellence (CME) We cordially invite you to join our newest and possibly most meaningful project: the **CME Classical Music Society!** A newly formed fellowship of music lovers and supporters, this intimate and exclusive program will celebrate our artists' excellence and their inspiring music and stories. When you become involved with our Classical Music Society, you are not only investing in the future of classical music, but also in the cultural environment of our country. So many young artists, both American and international, come here to make their musical dream a reality. We can be more than just spectators! For details, visit cmemusic.org to learn about the numerous benefits of membership.

KEMMERER LIBRARY

Operating Hours: Monday - Friday, 10am - 2pm
 Thursday, 10am - 5pm
 Saturday, 10am -12pm

The Library is open to visitors but please be aware of some restrictions:

- You are required to wear a face mask and to sanitize your hands on entering
- Restrooms are not available for use
- Meeting rooms are not available
- Working, studying and tutoring are not permitted
- Computers are not available
- Seating and coffee service are not available
- Children must be accompanied by an adult

We do appreciate your cooperation and look forward to welcoming you soon!

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

Zoom Storytime with Miss Debbie, Tuesdays at 10:15 am
For little ones age 1-4 and their caregivers. Come meet our wonderful new librarian, Miss Debbie, for songs, stories and a craft. Please register at www.hardinglibrary.org and stop-by the library on a Monday to pick-up a craft kit.

Bookworms Book Club, Sunday, December 13, 2:00pm
Children in grades 4-6 are invited to read 'Hello, Universe' by Erin Entrada Kelly and join us for a discussion and themed activities. Please contact the library if interested!

Adult Book Group (by Zoom), Tuesdays, December 1, 14, 1:30 pm
All are welcome to join our lively book group to discuss 'The Giver of Stars' by JoJo Moyes (December 1), 'The Guest List' by Lucy Foley (December 14) and a double-bill of 'Charlotte's Web' by E.B. White and 'Anxious People' by Fredrik Backman (December 29). Copies of the chosen titles are available from the Library in a number of formats.

Please check our website (www.hardinglibrary.org) for details of additional programs in December.

Kemmerer Library would like your BOOK DONATIONS!

Thank you to everyone who shopped our recent book sale, it was a great success! We were overwhelmed with offers of book donations and could not take them all at the time, but we are now in a position to receive donations again. Please call or email us to arrange drop off. We are sorry but we cannot accept text books, reference books or encyclopedias.

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for the **January 2021 Thumbnail** please email to: htca@mail.com by **Friday, December 18th, 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

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

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chester, NJ
Permit No. 60