

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since 1949”

www.HardingCivic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2021

MEET THE MAYOR

MEET THE MAYOR - FEBRUARY 9 AT 7:30PM

Meet the Mayor and Township Committee on Tuesday, February 9 at 7:30 PM through Zoom. This is a great chance to hear our representatives discuss the issues facing Harding and for citizens to ask questions and get answers in an informal freewheeling setting. See you there! Meeting details are below, and will also be posted on the HTCA website.

Topic: Meet the Mayor Night

Time: Feb 9, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82449796518>

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbbsxwTP2q>

PLATT WINS DICKSON’S MILL BRIDGE FIGHT

It may have appeared quixotic at the start, but Township Committee person, Nic Platt won the fight on behalf of residents and other supporters to have the replacement bridge on Dickson’s Mill Road be only 22 feet wide. Morris County said it had to be 26 feet wide to get State funding. The bridge is in need of replacement as the foundations have been eroded by the stream that it crosses.

Residents were concerned that a wide 26 ft bridge would increase traffic speeds and increase traffic flow, which would lead to widening of the road thereby destroying the rural character of that area.

Nic Platt originally took the fight to Morris County which said the only way to get a narrow bridge was for Harding to pay for the entire project as the State required a standard size to get State funding. Platt then took the problem to the State DOT Commissioner. A turning point was Platt's September letter to the Commissioner which highlighted new American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials guidelines on "low volume bridges" to the Commissioner's attention.

Finally after a year of calls, letters, meetings and threat of a sit in (and strapping himself to the bridge), Mr Platt succeeded. The Commissioner, in a December 9 letter, agreed to a 22 ft wide bridge, slightly wider than the current bridge, but narrower than the supposed standard 26 feet.

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!

FIRST AID SQUAD

This month, the Belmar First Aid Squad, the nation's oldest volunteer First Aid Squad, founded in 1928, announced it would be closing on March 31, 2021. Can it happen in Harding? You bet it could!

The Belmar First Aid Squad was an all-volunteer agency until 2018 when it became a paid service because it couldn't find the volunteers it needed to continue to provide a 24/7 service. The switch to a paid service created a different set of problems, involving staffing, finance, and administration issues. Many small first aid squads, like the New Vernon Volunteer First Aid Squad, are finding it more and more difficult to attract the staff necessary to carry on providing a 24/7 service. Government regulations require that on each call that the ambulance be staffed with at least 2 EMTs. New Vernon Volunteer First Aid Squad operates 10 shifts a week, plus all members do 'scrambles' on the weekend.

Kevin Murphy, the Squad Captain, advises that we are currently covering our shifts, but there is little or no give if members get sick or want to go on vacation, or take time off for other personal or family reasons. Currently, we have two EMT members on long term disability right now, only one of which is likely to be coming back. Also, there is a constant need to replace members who age out or simply relocate from Harding. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused further stress on the Squad's resources.

Larry Wepler, the Squad's President and former Recruitment Officer, said the need is critical. Even if we get people signed up now, it takes time for these new members to get qualified and get certified as EMTs.

Please consider helping; volunteer now.

To volunteer, or learn more about the First Aid Squad, contact:

- Kevin Murphy (973)-570-7032
- George Barry (646) 361-5528
- Larry Wepler (917) 838-3332

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

We are "Neighbors helping neighbors."

GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Virtual Pub Quiz on Zoom with GSWA

Sunday, February 5, 6-7 PM

Ready to challenge yourself and others in a fast-paced thinking game? Our Pub Quiz has gone virtual. Play alone or work together as a household team. Select one person to enter the answers to these multiple-choice questions into your device (phone, iPad, etc.) Play for prizes and bragging rights! If you are playing as a household, simply select one person's name to enter at registration. Then start brushing up on your water quality and environment facts. Whether you plan to play alone or as a household, the registration fee is \$10/household. (Note: you cannot register as a team with other households.) Sign up today to play along, have some fun, and compete for some cool prizes! Zoom link will be shared after you register. Register at [GreatSwamp.org/events](https://www.GreatSwamp.org/events).

Pre-Valentine's Day Virtual Chocolate Tasting with GSWA

Friday, February 12, 6-7 PM

No matter what is going on in the world, we can all agree that chocolate makes things just a little bit better. So, let's take a time out to discover some new flavors. We have carefully selected a delectable variety of chocolates for you to sample in the comfort of your own home. As we dig into these sinful delights together, we will learn about their unique ingredients, and what wines and foods we can pair them with for a special Valentine's Day celebration. After you register, you will receive an email with the Zoom login instructions along with how and where to pick up your treats prior to the event. Register at [GreatSwamp.org/events](https://www.GreatSwamp.org/events).

DIY At-home Workshop: Warbler Nesting Box Kit

Monday, Feb 15

Cost: \$30 Members / \$35 non-members

Let's get ready for spring! In case you missed out last year, we are once again offering our at-home workshop to build your own warbler box in time for nesting season. Here's how it works: register for this virtual program, collect the kits from our office in a secure and safe way, then build the box at your leisure at home following our easy to follow, step-by-step instruction guide. We will even be available for technical help should you require it. All you will need is a hammer, the kit, and a little patience. If you are not sure if you have the right habitat for these amazing warblers, don't worry, many other cavity nesting birds will utilize constructed boxes. Our follow-along guide contains important and interesting background information to help ensure nesting success. This workshop is limited, so don't miss out and register today! After registration you'll receive your pick-up instructions and link to the how to build materials. Register at GreatSwamp.org/events.

Cook with GSWA on Zoom!

Wednesday, February 24, 4-5 PM

Calling all cooks... grab your apron and let's rattle some pots and pans together! You may have heard we recently published a cookbook of our favorite pandemic recipes. We thought it would be fun to Zoom a meal together just in time for you to share with your family. Step aside Bobby Flay, our resident chefs, Hazel England and Sandra LaVigne, will entertain and teach as they guide you through the recipe from the start to a delicious, finished meal. With all of us cooking from home a lot more these days, this is a fun way to do something together while fine-tuning our culinary skills on the "GSWA cooking channel." You do not need to own the cookbook to participate. We will send you the recipe and login details prior to the Zoom call. You must register to attend. After you register, visit GreatSwamp.org/store for more info on our unique, illustrated cookbook chock full of appetizer, drink, quick dinner recipes and more, and to purchase your own copy. Register at GreatSwamp.org/events.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We have exciting news! On President's Day, February 15, 2021, HTHS is pleased to present a most important speaker, His Excellency, GEORGE WASHINGTON!* He will present a speech about the "Dark Days of the American Revolution." His talk will be of interest to all ages! The lecture will begin around 7PM. The Historical Society's annual meeting will follow his presentation.

COVID continues to be a battle here in Harding Township, so we will have to have "George" visit us via "ZOOM" on February 15th. We will need you to sign up in advance.

Please RSVP to Jane Riley at jhackfordriley@gmail.com. We will send you a confirmation email with the details and link to our program.

*George Washington is not really joining us. He will be portrayed by Sam Davis from Chesterfield Township. He has been portraying Washington for the last 10 years regaling groups from Valley Forge (including a white horse) to Princeton, Philadelphia and beyond. We are very happy that he is able to join us on this night. Obviously, February is a busy month for him!

HARDING LAND TRUST

2020 Celebrate Harding Photo Contest Winners:

Harding Land Trust is excited to announce the winners of our annual photo contest. We would like to thank all the participants who submitted photographs. This year saw a record number of entries! We also want to thank our judges, Emi Ithen, Jane Kendall, and Chris Allyn, for their time and expertise. Their careful and thoughtful comments will be shared with the photographers.

Grand Prize Winner: Peter Tonzola

9th-12th Grade Winner: Nicole Amaral

5th-8th Grade Winner: Maddie Johnston

Kindergarten-4th Grade Winner: Hannah Rosen

Kindergarten-4th Grade Winner: Norah Carifa

**two winners for the K-4th category*

Photographs will be on display at Kirby Hall soon!

Start photographing for next year's photo contest! Deadline Nov. 1st 2021. Submit photos at photos@hardinglandtrust.org

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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 Flour Sack 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 Hope Hazen 973-886-9734

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

THE RAPTOR TRUST

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization located in Millington, NJ that provides free medical care to thousands of injured and orphaned wild birds each year. In addition, the Raptor Trust provides educational programs to individuals, clubs, and schools about New Jersey's native raptors. The Raptor Trust is offering the following virtual program options this spring:

Raptor Conference Call

\$30 for two screens/households. 20 minutes with a TRT educator and one of our ambassador birds.

Small Group Program

\$60 for up to 12 participants. 35-40 minute program led by one of the TRT educators and an ambassador bird. Programs topics vary.

Teacher-Moderated Classroom Programs

\$80 for 45 minute program. Maximum 35 students & 2 teachers. Choose from a variety of lesson plans that can be integrated into your existing curriculum.

For more information and to book a program please visit theraptortrust.org/education/programs

HARDING TOWNSHIP RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Girls Team Lacrosse Grades 3-8

Registration is now open! The season runs from March 22 - May 20, 2021. Players will need a girl's lacrosse stick, mouth guard, goggles, cleats and water bottle. Practices take place at the Harding Twp Elementary School Fields. Registration Fee is \$150.

Schedule:

3/4 TEAM: Practices will be Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00-7:15pm and Saturdays 9:00-10:00am. Games will Start at 6:00pm on various days of the week and 1:00pm on Saturdays.

5/6 TEAM: Practices will be Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00-7:15pm and Saturdays 9:00-10:00am. Games will Start at 6:00 or 7:00pm on various days of the week and 1:00pm on Saturdays.

7/8 TEAM: Practices will be Mondays and Wednesdays 6:00-7:15pm and Saturdays 9:00-10:00am. Games will Start at 6:00 or 7:00pm on various days of the week and 1:00pm on Saturdays.

For more information and registration, please see the HTRA Lacrosse page at www.HTRA.info

Direct link for registration can also be found at <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/253652>

Minilaxers Grades K-2

Registration is now open! Minilaxers is for boys and girls in grades K thru 2nd grade. Players need lacrosse stick (no fiddle stix), sneakers or cleats and water bottle. Boys do not need pads or helmets. Mouth guards and goggles are optional. We use soft balls at this level. Cost is \$75.

For more information and registration, please see the HTRA Lacrosse page at www.HTRA.info

Direct link for registration can also be found at <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/254564>

TBall

Welcome to TBall 2021! We look forward to a great season! Opening day will be on April 23.

Practices/games are held on Fridays at 5:45pm to 7:00pm at the Harding Township School athletic fields. Players will need a mitt, sneakers (cleats optional), and a TBall helmet. Bats are provided, however, players may bring their own. Bats will be wiped down between players.

TBall is for players in grades pre-K 4 through 1st grade. We will provide Team t-shirt, Team hat, Team uniform pants and Team socks.

A Parent/Guardian is expected to stay at the fields during practice and game.

Cost is \$50.

Schedule:

April 23 - Opening Day! Please arrive at 5:30pm. Uniform Distribution, Team and Individual Photos, Rules Review. No game or practice.

April 30, May 7, 14, 21 - Practice and Game

May 28 - Practice and Game and Trophy Day!

June 4 - Rain makeup date (to be confirmed)

Our HTRA TBall program is run entirely by volunteers. In the past, we have had 2 parent coaches per team and 4 teams (subject to change based on number of players registered). The quality of the experience is greatly improved when we have enough volunteers. Please consider volunteering!

For more information and registration, please see the HTRA TBall page at www.HTRA.info

Direct link for registration can also be found at

<https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/254523>

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The February *Sunday Speaker Series* is pleased to welcome back Joel Farkas, who will offer a lively treat for history buffs: "Remember the Ladies: Women During the American Revolution." His title comes from a letter Abigail Adams wrote to her husband on March

31, 1776 exhorting him to “Remember the Ladies.” This program does just that as it explores attitudes toward women and when those attitudes backfired. Women were expected to get married, have numerous children, and manage the home. He also considers health and medicine in colonial times, our country’s first ladies, and the women who “saved” George Washington. Joel Farkas lectures widely on Revolutionary times and serves as a National Park Service volunteer docent at Washington’s Headquarters. Please join us for this stimulating talk either on the Church website, pcnv.org, or Facebook, accessible on both.

CENTER FOR MUSICAL EXCELLENCE

The February *Sunday Speaker Series* is pleased to welcome back Joel Farkas, who will offer a lively treat for history buffs: “Remember the Ladies: Women During the American Revolution.” His title comes from a letter Abigail Adams wrote to her husband on March 31, 1776 exhorting him to “Remember the Ladies.” This program does just that as it explores attitudes toward women and when those attitudes backfired. Women were expected to get married, have numerous children, and manage the home. He also considers health and medicine in colonial times, our country’s first ladies, and the women who “saved” George Washington. Joel Farkas lectures widely on Revolutionary times and serves as a National Park Service volunteer docent at Washington’s Headquarters. Please join us for this stimulating talk either on the Church website, pcnv.org, or Facebook, accessible on both.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

500 Spring Valley Rd, Green Village

We are excited to announce that we now have a book donation bin! Donate any book with an ISBN barcode on the back cover that is in good, readable condition. Hardcover, paperback, and textbooks are all welcome! The bin is outside the church alongside the church's side door. You can drop off books at any time!

The bin cannot accept encyclopedias, library reference books, magazines, water damaged books, or books without an ISBN.

KEMMERER LIBRARY

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

The Library continues to be 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. You can access eBooks and eAudiobooks on cloudLibrary (shared between the MAIN libraries) as well as Libby (our Harding-exclusive collection).

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 (all on 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 on Zoom. Please register at www.hardinglibrary.org and stop-by the library the day before to pick-up a craft kit.

Bookworms, Sunday, January 31, 3:00 pm

Our book club for 10-12 year olds is reading 'The Capture' (Book 1 in the 'Guardians of Ga'Hoole' series). Please contact alison.maxwell@hardinglibrary.org if you are interested in joining us for a discussion and themed activities on Zoom.

New! Coffee Time, Monday mornings through February at 11:00 am

Join friends, neighbors and other library patrons on Zoom for a chat over your morning coffee. A chance to socialize and chat about whatever interests you!

Adult Book Group, Tuesdays, February 9 and 23, 1:30 pm

All are welcome to join our lively book group to discuss 'The Winter Soldier' by Daniel Mason (on February 9), and 'Nobody Will Tell You This but Me' by Bess Kalb (February 23). Copies of the chosen titles are available from the Library in a number of formats. Please send request for Zoom link to desk@hardinglibrary.org.

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

Kemmerer Library would like your BOOK DONATIONS!

Looking for a home for your unwanted books? We would love to receive your gently used book donations for resale. Please call or email us to arrange drop off, or even pick-up from around town. We are sorry but we cannot accept books in poor condition, reference books or encyclopedias.

FRIENDS OF THE KEMMERER LIBRARY

Our beautiful library has become a wonderful community center. There is something for everyone of all ages to participate in, even during this awful stay at home pandemic time. Zoom has enabled the library to bring people together and provide exciting programs.

The Friends of the Kemmerer Library help in supporting these activities and maintaining the building by fund raising.

We are a small congenial group that is in great need of more members in order to fulfill our purpose. We promise you will have a good time while doing a good deed. Please call the Library for more information and to join the Friends group.

February 9, 10:15 on Zoom is the next meeting. You will be sent the link when you call.

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for the **March 2021 Thumbnail** please email to: htca@mail.com by **Friday, February 19, 2021**. 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

2021 Recycling Schedule:

February 13th, 27th

May 8th, 22nd

March 13th, 27th

April 10th, 24th

Hours of Operation:

Mondays & Wednesdays: 7 am - Noon

Saturdays: 9 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
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