

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since 1949”

www.HardingCivic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING Events December 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION

For decades, the HTCA has been dedicated to preserving the quality of life in Harding. We work to protect our town's pastoral beauty, provide non-partisan information on local issues, and bring neighbors together.

To continue this important work, we need your help. Your tax-deductible donation allows us to operate and serve the entire community.

Please consider making a contribution today.

To donate, please visit pay by credit card or Venmo with the following links or mail a check to P.O. Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976

Thank you for supporting your community.



CREDIT CARD

HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Harding Township Board of Education met on Monday October 20th in the Library/Stem Lab of the Harding Middle School. The Principal/Director of Curriculum, Dr. April Friedman presented an update to the Board, and to the community, regarding the district's results on the state testing for the 2024-25 academic school year:

- 1) Harding Township School had 92% of 8th grade students and 91% of 7th grade students passed the English Language Arts test.
- 2) 100% of all test takers passed the Algebra assessment and 96% of all 4th grade students passed the mathematics assessment.
- 3) Harding Township school outperformed the state average by 41% in Math and 31% in English Language Arts.

More details on the NJ Student Learning Assessment results can be found at www.hardingtwp.org.

Board of Education- November 10th, 2025

The Harding Township Board of Education presented its 2024-25 audit results to the public in the Library/Stem Lab of the Harding Middle School. Mr. Andrew Lucinski, Partner, Nisovaccia, LLC presented to the Board of Education and to the public. The results of the audit indicated that Harding Township School District is in sound financial standing, and no areas requiring improvement were identified in the following audit items: Administrative Practices and Procedures, Financial Planning, Accounting, and Reporting, School Purchasing Program, School Food Service, Student Body Activities, Application for State School Aid, Pupil Transportation, Facilities and Capital Assets, Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 17th 7 PM- The Board will review the budget guidelines for the 2026-2027 school year.

GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

December 2025 Programs & Events

Registration: Unless otherwise noted, registration is required. Visit GreatSwamp.org/events to register.

Make a Winter Wreath Workshop (Session 1)

Mon, December 1, 5:00–6:30pm

Great Swamp Watershed Association's HQ, Morristown, NJ

It's not winter until the wreath is on the door. Come craft a homemade winter wreath made from native evergreens and other native plants. You'll decorate your masterpiece with pinecones, berries, and other items found in nature. While your creativity blossoms, you'll learn more about the natural items being used in this craft. You will leave with a finished piece that's ready to hang on your door or give as a gift! GSWA members \$40, non- members \$45. Registration is required.

Winter Hike at Jockey Hollow

Sat, December 13, 10am-12pm

Jockey Hollow Visitor Center, Morristown, NJ

Join us for a fun and informative nature hike through Jockey Hollow before the holiday rush begins! This family-friendly adventure will take you through a potentially snowy forest where we'll look for animal tracks and discover where they lead. We'll learn about how local wildlife survives the winter, their activities, and how they prepare for the spring thaw. This is a great opportunity for budding nature enthusiasts of all ages to meet others and learn some cool facts about the environment. GSWA members \$10, non- members \$15, children \$5. Registration is required.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department is holding a 50/50 Raffle fundraiser.

CASH PRIZES - ONLY 200 tickets sold

\$100 a ticket

3 winners. 75% to first winner; 15% to second winner; 10% to third winner

Up to \$10,000 in prize money

Raffle goes off December 17 at 8pm. Call Scott Lerner for tickets 973-390-8170

Santa Claus Is Coming to Town – Aboard a Fire Truck!

Santa will be making his way through our community on a New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department fire truck! Mark your calendars — he'll be visiting on:

Saturday, December 6th and Sunday, December 7th -Between 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM. During these evenings, Santa and his firefighter helpers will be stopping by to visit local children. In the event of **severe** weather (heavy rain or snow), Santa will instead greet families at the firehouse the following weekend. **Sign Up Online**

To **schedule** your visit and see **which day** your street will be scheduled, go to:

www.nvvfd.com/santa

If you've registered in the past, you will receive a reminder email.

Please note: We will no longer be mailing postcards — all sign-ups must be completed through the website.

Questions?

Email Assistant Fire Chief Peter Finkle at  nvvfdchief@gmail.com

Toys for Tots Collection

We're proud to once again support the **Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program**, helping bring joy to less fortunate children.

New, unwrapped toys can be given to Santa's helpers during his visit.

THE HARDING TOWNSHIP/GREEN VILLAGE BRIDLE PATH ASSOCIATION

Donation Drive Is Underway!

If you haven't yet received our mailer and would like to contribute, please send your donation to:

P.O. Box 710, New Vernon, NJ 07976

Your generous support is essential for maintaining our beautiful bridle trails and keeping them clean, safe, and open to all. Donations also help cover the costs of hosting events on the showgrounds and maintaining the trails throughout the year.

Every contribution—large or small—makes a difference and is deeply appreciated.

Our holiday party is Sunday December 14 @ 4pm

For questions, holiday party information or additional information, please contact:

Megan Finkle

(908) 331-0600

finklemegan@gmail.com

HARDING REPUBLICAN CLUB & MARKET STREET MISSION TOY DRIVE

Join us for a community toy and clothing drive to support those in need this holiday season. The Harding Republican Club and the Market Street Mission will be collecting new, unwrapped toys, as well as toiletries, socks, gently worn work shoes for adults, and clean clothing of all kinds. Donations will be accepted on Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Bayne Park. Your generosity will help bring warmth and joy to local families this winter!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON:

Tuesday, December 1 from 1-6. Red Cross Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall. To register go to redcrossblood.org, select “Find a Blood Drive” with zip code 07976 and scroll down to First Presbyterian to sign up. Co-sponsored with the Veterans Organization, More Perfect Union +.

Sunday, December 14 at 4 p.m. Madrigal Concert by Candlelight in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy light refreshments and seasonal beverages as the Church’s professional choir members perform holiday favorites from the Victorian era to our current day. Tickets are \$20 per person, students are free.

GREEN VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Santa’s Arrival and Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 6 p.m.

hosted by the Green Village Fire Department and Auxiliary

Families can come and watch as Santa arrives by fire truck to light up the tree at the Green Village Fire House. After Santa lights the tree, he will proceed into the firehouse to hear the children’s holiday wishes. Complementary refreshments will be provided by the Auxiliary of the Green Village Fire Department.

Prior to Santa's arrival, you are welcome to join your neighbors at the United Methodist Church in Green Village for their annual Hot Dog Supper. Beginning at 4:30, you can enjoy hot dogs, chips and hot chocolate complements of the Green Village United Methodist Church. At 5:45 the group will walk from the church down a nostalgic luminary lit road singing Christmas carols to await Santa’s arrival.

Both events are free and all are welcome. Additional information can be found at www.greenvillagefire.com or on our Facebook page.

Raffle Drawing

Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 8 p.m.
hosted by the Green Village Fire Department

Tickets are now available for the Green Village Fire Department's annual raffle. The raffle consists of six drawings. The prizes will be based on a percentage of the gross proceeds (1st - 20%; 2nd - 10%; 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th - 5%). The purchase of a \$100 raffle ticket enters you in all six drawings. With only 300 tickets available, they will be sold on a "first come, first serve" basis. To purchase a raffle ticket, please visit our website at greenvillagefire.com/5050-raffle.html to print a form. Simply fill out the form and mail it with your check (payable to Green Village Fire Department) to Green Village Fire Department, 529 Green Village Road, Green Village, NJ 07935. If sending a check, please note "Raffle" on the envelope. We will fill in your stub and forward your ticket to you. The drawings will be held at 8 pm. In an abundance of caution, only Green Village Fire Department members will be allowed at the drawings.

Contact Us or Sign-Up for E-Mails

You can stay informed of the Green Village Fire Department's upcoming events by visiting our website at www.greenvillagefire.com and subscribing to our email list using the "subscribe to email" button. There you can also choose and update your email preferences.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HTHS Making Progress with Modernizing our Archives!

HTHS is pleased to announce we are making remarkable progress in bringing Harding's rich history to life. Over 5,000 archival records—photographs, maps, letters, objects and stories are being carefully updated and migrated into a new web-based systems that will soon allow everyone to explore our shared history online. The project represents more than digital modernization—it is a community promise. We are ensuring that the memories, milestones, and transformations that have shaped Harding are preserved and made accessible to all generations. Starting in February, and unfolding over the months ahead, we will unveil a living window into our shared

past—a set of online collections meant to be explored with curiosity, cherished with pride and felt deeply across generations of Harding’s residents. Stay tuned.....

NEW VERNON GARDEN CLUB

Lemonade

Sally Quinn for the New Vernon Garden Club

That whole “If you have lemons, make lemonade”? I embrace that. I am really lucky to have a positive mindset. It has even been helping me with my fall cleanup! I do a lot of pruning in the fall (except for the spring flowering stuff, which you have to hit two seconds after blooming finishes). Things have slowed down, I am sick to death of weeding, I can see which things have gotten a little too tall or a little out of control over the growing season and many of them have lost a lot of leaves, making the structure easier to evaluate. I think I might have mentioned this before, but it deserves a second mention: after I cut a branch, I snip it into smaller pieces (3-6 inches long, depending on how far back in the garden I am! If they can't be seen from the garden's edge, 6 inches is fine! And if there are a few really long ones, just sling them as far back as you can!) and drop them right on the ground. No clean-up, no carting away. They are mulch! Free mulch! Same for long-leaved herbaceous plants like daylilies and Siberian iris. Chop, chop, chop. Drop, drop, drop. My latest lemon is the gorgeous bamboo *Pleioblastus viridistriatus* ‘Chrysophyllus’ (don't even try!), which has now gamboled about 60 ft down my outer garden. There is no possible way that I can eradicate this, so I am now cutting it to the ground (really easy), chopping and dropping. Since quite a bit of this is close to the front, where it can be seen, I put a very thin layer of traditional mulch over the droppings to camouflage them! So, my lemonade? A never-ending supply of compost!

Additionally, I am not tempted to try to dig up and move plants in their midst anymore, since prying their respective roots apart is not worth the time and effort, thus giving me the perfect excuse to just leave them be. After all of the chopping and dropping, the last thing I do for fall clean-up is drive around on my little John Deere,

dicing up the leaves that haven't blown away, which I then blow as far back into the garden as possible with my new Ego battery-operated blower!! Beautiful, sustainable, free! Lem.O.Nade.

If you are interested in joining the New Vernon Garden Club, please contact Shelly Lasky at shellyjcarey@yahoo.com.

KEMMERER LIBRARY HARDING TOWNSHIP

Register at hardinglibrary.org.

Registration is required for all programs except for Stay and Play/Storytime.

Stay & Play/Storytime with Grandpa Ralph & Miss Kathy - Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Caregivers/Parents can socialize young children through play in our Children's Room. Grandpa Ralph & Miss Kathy will sing and read a story at 11:00 a.m.

Read to a Dog - Monday, December 1st, Appointments beginning at 4:00 p.m. Creature Comfort will be here with their trained dogs to help foster reading.

Holiday Wreath Making with the NV Garden Club - Wed, December 3rd, 3-4:45 p.m.

The New Vernon Garden Club will hold a Holiday Wreath Making Workshop. Children may drop in to create a wreath for the holidays anytime during this open house event.

Page Turners - Friday, December 5th at 4:00 p.m.

Children (ages 7-12) will learn how to mentor and help younger children (ages 3-6) develop reading skills during this fun program devised by Miss Samantha Innella, as she works on her Gold Award for the Northern New Jersey Council of Girl Scouts.

Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop

Monday, December 8th, Wednesday December 10th, Tuesday, December 16th: 3-4p.m.

Saturday, December 13th: 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m

Please sign up **each child individually** (child's name). Children may attend only once.

Family Night Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop - Friday, Dec 12th at 6p.m.

This is a fun night decorating a gingerbread house for your whole family to enjoy.

Cookie Decorating Workshop and Visit From Santa - Sunday, December 14th at 5p.m.

Please join us after the NJ Symphony String Quartet performance to decorate a holiday cookie and visit with Santa Claus. (Concert is at Kirby Hall, Santa will be at the Library)

Poke'mon Card Trading - Monday, December 15th at 4:00 p.m.

Please join us to trade your extra cards and learn about Poke'mon.

Polar Express - Tuesday, December 23rd at 2:00 p.m.

Each child will receive a Polar Express ticket punched by our own conductor where they will be greeted with the sweet smell of hot chocolate - just like in the story!

Bernardsville Cinema - Spongebob - Tuesday, December 30th at 11:00 a.m.

We will be meeting at the Bernardsville Cinema for this special showing of the new Spongebob Movie - "Search for Squarepants". You must register to get admitted for **free**. It is important to **register each individual attending** (child or adult) separately under their own name. Children **must attend** with an adult.

Noon Year's Eve Party - Wednesday, December 31st at 10:30 a.m.

Even if you are too small to stay up on New Year's Eve, this party will help you get in the mood to celebrate the New Year!

Adult Programs - register at hardinglibrary.org

Yoga - Mondays only at 10:15a.m. Suggested donation \$10.

Book Club - Open to all, meets in the Adult Reading Room (in person)

December 2nd at 1:30p.m. - *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan

December 16th at 1:30p.m. - *Twice* by Mitch Albom

Surreal Sixties at The Whitney - Tuesday, December 2nd at 7:00p.m. (on zoom)

American art of the 1960s that foregrounds the role of surrealism during a period of social and political upheaval. The range of works by artists include Diane Arbus, Lee Bontecou, Nancy Grossman, David Hammons, among others. Presented by Mary Vahey.

Decorate a Gingerbread House - Friday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m.

Get in the spirit of the season and come decorate a gingerbread house for the holidays.

Holiday Themed Adult Crafts - Monday, December 8th at 1:00p.m. (in person)

Join Margie for her last craft hurrah to make fun holiday items. We will be making oyster shell ornaments that can be personalized, book page snowmen as well as holiday cards.

The Met's Christmas Tree - Monday, December 8th, at 7:00p.m. (on zoom)

This lecture explores the history behind one of New York City's most beautiful and beloved Christmas traditions: The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Neapolitan Baroque Angel Tree and Nativity Scene. Presented by Mallory Mortillaro

NJ Symphony String Quartet - Sunday, December 14th at 4:00p.m. (in person)
This performance will be held at Kirby Municipal Building

Enjoy the sounds of the season with a family friendly concert featuring a string quartet from the NJ Symphony. After, please join us at the library for some refreshments and a visit from Santa. Also, register separately for a fun cookie decorating activity for the kids.

Ruth Asawa: Sculptor, Educator, Arts Activist - Mon, Dec 15th at 7:00p.m. (on zoom)

Get a taste for the Asawa exhibit at MOMA (through Feb 2026). Known for her extensive body of work including paintings, printmaking, and especially her wire sculptures that challenge conventional notions of material and form. Presented by Janet Mandel

History of Christmas Carols - Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00p.m. (on zoom)

Trace the evolution of Christmas carols from pagan solstice songs to the wide range of carols played and performed around the winter holidays today. Presented by the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts, we will also learn the specific histories of select carols.

Virtual Author Visits - archived recordings are available on the library website

Scheming Wives and High-Stakes Hilarity w/ Author Sue Hincenbergs

Tuesday, December 2nd, 2:00p.m.

Legacy of Julia Child's Kitchen w/Author & Smithsonian Curator Paula J. Johnson

Tuesday, December 9th, 2:00p.m.

NEIGHBORS FOR TOMORROW IN HARDING (NFTH)

Neighbors for Tomorrow in Harding (NFTH)--- It is important for residents to stay informed about Housing Development projects underway in Harding Township and the implications for our community way of life. The goal of NFTH is to communicate with residents and to advocate for transparency from our Township Committee as options are evaluated for development in our town.

The Township Committee Meeting on November 10th included several Agenda items concerning Affordable Housing. The meeting opened with a summary of Affordable Housing to date:

Round 3 (2015–2025): Quota 176 → 103 produced/credited; 73 covered by Route 202 overlay.

Round 4 (2025–2035): Quota 75 → primarily covered by a 54-unit 100% affordable rental units on Kitchell Rd (Walters Capital), plus credits/bonuses. The Highlands conformance (2024) helps limit where intensive development can occur. and compliance avoids Builder’s Remedy suits.

The TC approved on Monday an **AHO-2 change** adopted for 1103 & 1105 Route 202 resulting in density increase from 8 to 10 units/acre if an onsite package wastewater plant is built. The full Planning Board site plan review will still be required. The effect of this change is an increase from 53 units to a new cap of 65 units (+12), with full Planning Board review still ahead. It was noted that the Fair Share Housing Center was heavily involved in this statewide and it will be effective only after court approval. The [next Planning Board Meeting](#) is scheduled for Monday November 24th so please refer to that Agenda when it is published.

During the Public Comment period there were many public comments which focused on traffic/safety, low-yield wells & clay soils, infrastructure capacity, siting along 202, and especially transparency. A resident also objected to added density as well as the process and transparency of the Township Committee.

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for the **January 2026** Thumbnail, please send it via email to the editor: hardingcivicassociation@gmail.com by Friday, December 12th, 2025. MS Word is the preferred format, Times New Roman size 13, thank you. Current and past issues of the Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are available on our website: www.HardingCivic.org. **“Please consider supporting the Harding Township Civic Association with a gift via one of these QR Codes.” Household dues are recommended at \$35.**



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CREDIT CARD

HARDING TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

2025 Recycling Schedule:

DEC 6th , 20th

Hours of Operation:

Wednesday: 7am-Noon, Saturdays: 9am-Noon

Every Wednesday, seniors (residents 60+) will have full assistance available to them from 7am-9am. All residents are welcome for all hours that Recycling is open. Social distancing must be always observed. Tracy Toribio is no longer with HT. No replacement yet. Recycling Questions: Please contact Harding Department of Public Works at 973-267-2448, Mon-Fri 8am-3pm.

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 bottles to conserve space. Please remember no plastic or paper bags.

Commingled Mixed Fiber: 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: Computers, monitors, laptops, and televisions cannot be put in 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.

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
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 Wednesday
2nd Tuesday

Time

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

DATED MATERIAL

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