



From the Town Clerk

Nomination papers for the election of town officers in the April 2021 election will be available the 2nd week of January. A complete list of incumbents, offices, and terms to be elected, will be posted on the town's website, www.townofhardwick.com. Anyone interested in becoming a candidate for office should take out nomination papers from the Town Clerk's office with the signatures of 20 registered voters to have their name appear on the ballot.

If there are any questions, please email me at clerk@townofhardwick.com or call 413-477-6700. Messages are monitored every weekday regardless of posted hours.

Civil Defense in 2021

So we'll be leaving 2020 behind soon. A wild year. Talk about emergencies. Our whole society has been upended. The most common activities in our lives have been cancelled or restricted. We've had to learn how to read people's expressions all over again. Hugs and kisses, sharing meals, parties and gatherings, all off limits. Can't sit at the bar at the Mexicali Grill, no buffet at DebbyWong's, long lines at Trader Joe's, empty shelves at the supermarket. Some of our favorite spots out of business. Christmas season without dinner at our neighbors' house. Everyone is tired of this and on edge. And getting edgier. The medical solutions are in sight, light at the end of the tunnel. But still several months away. Our statistics are gloomy, infections are rising here at the end of a long grim year. And winter is closing in.

As usual, I'd like to urge you all to stock up on food and flashlights. Think about emergencies and how you would deal with them. We missed any hurricanes this year but there were a lot of trees down in strong winds and there were some power outages. Our particular risks here are from ice and snow. And all the 'normal' accidents they cause. Just now is the winter solstice, longest night of the year. So, at least we can depend on more and more daylight.

Hang in there. Keep the masks on so that we get to the finish line without too many casualties. It's the only way we can defend ourselves and each other. There are vaccines and medicines coming. Still several months away, but getting closer and closer. This plague seemed distant when it started last winter. I didn't know anyone who had caught it. I felt that we were kind of safe out here in the hills. In this last month, all of a sudden, I know five people who have it. It doesn't seem so distant anymore. It'd be a shame to go slack on whatever safety dodges we have and crack up before we get out of this tunnel we're in...

Looking forward to Spring, Eric

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Important Date

January 21 Martin Luther King Day

Thank you to all who donated to Hardwick Christmas for Kids 2020. This was an unprecedented year but we were able to help over 100 kids in Hardwick. We accept donations year-round: Hardwick Police Christmas for Kids 20 Memorial Dr., New Braintree, MA 01531. Please make the checks payable to: Hardwick Christmas for Kids.

From the libraries

The Paige Memorial Library offers contact free Curb Service for borrowing books, puzzles, movies, audio books. Materials can also be ordered through our Inter Library Loan service. We diligently quarantine materials for one week and use every precaution to keep our Patrons and Staff safe. Wi-Fi is available in the parking lot. Call or email to let us know how we can further assist you.

Something new at the Paige is the posting online of recent additions to the collection and other items of special interest. For those who miss browsing, check out the pictures:

Web page www.paigelibrary.com, Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/paigelibraryhardwickma>

and on Hardwick Virtual Commons email <http://ljcohen.net/maillinglist/mail.cgi/list/hardwick/>

Send us your order by phone 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com

We will call to tell you when your order is ready for pickup.

The Paige Memorial Library is the home of the Hardwick Fair-y Village. Since new homes could not be built this year due to the cancellation of the Hardwick Fair, the Hardwick Fairies are seeking shelter from the cold and the loneliness. The Paige is asking patrons to pick up a Hardwick Fair-y Cottage Kit to take home. The kit will provide some key pieces to create a Seasonal Scene with a suitable bungalow for our displaced Hardwick Fairies.

Fairies like broken jewelry and candy, pinecones, feathers, shells, stones, and shiny objects on their houses. The Cottage Kit will provide a lovely slab of tree bark, a starter house, and some surprise embellishments. It is up to you to find recyclables around your house to add to your Seasonal Scene. See images on our web sites to inspire you.

Create these Hardwick Fair-y houses from now through Spring. All we ask in return is that you photograph the creations and send the photos to director.paigelibrary@gmail.com, so that we may post them online!

Call the library and tell us how many cottage kits you need for the Hardwick Fair-y Assistance Program. The Cottage Kits will be labelled with your name and put out for pickup at the front of the library during pickup hours.

Coming soon: more Take and Make kits, a Fairy Tale Trail story walk behind the Paige Library and Goddard Field, and a Hardwick Fair-y Village mailbox for sending (and receiving) messages.

Wishing you wellness and Peace, Nancy and Julie

The Gilbertville Public Library is Open

Hours: Tues 2pm-6pm, Thurs 2pm-6pm, Fri 4pm -7pm

A **MASK** must be ON to ENTER Library. (Your temperature will be taken.)

If ill or have symptoms **DO NOT ENTER**

Password for WI-FI is *library20*, you can connect in the parking lot or outside.. 3 computers will be AVAILABLE Inside for half hour usage when someone is waiting.

Return books to book drops only, either inside or out

The play area, games and toys will not be available for use temporarily in the children's room.

Tutoring sessions for students are available. Students will need to make an appointment 413-477-6312

****DOG LICENSING INFORMATION****

Dog registration for 2021 will start on February 1, 2021.

Spayed and neutered dogs are \$8.00 each; those that are not are \$15.00 each.

Anyone with more than 4 dogs at their home needs a kennel license, an inspection from the Dog Officer, and if necessary, a Special Permit from the Planning Board.

All dogs that are to be licensed must have a valid rabies certificate (or waiver from their veterinarian) on file.

Residents may send their payment when returning their census form, along with a check made payable to the Town of Hardwick in the proper amount due. Original rabies vaccination certificates will be returned with the license(s). If invalid rabies, or incorrect payment is received, payment will be returned along with a notification as to what is necessary to register the dog(s).

TOWN CENSUS

The 2021 Census forms will be mailed out to Hardwick residents no later than the 3rd week of January 2021. It is a legal requirement for residents to complete the census to remain on the voters' list.

Note that ALL residents are identified as being in "Hardwick 01037." Please ensure that your mailing address is correct by observing your MAILING address to ensure it has the proper village or post office box listed along with correct ZIP code. If it does not, please make any necessary corrections and most importantly, SIGN the census where indicated.

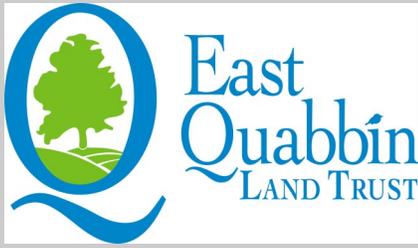
To reduce in-person contact, please mail or deposit your census form and dog registration, along with a self-addressed-stamped-envelope in the drop box outside the Municipal Building. Alternately, you may scan and email the signed census form only and send to clerk@townofhardwick.com.

From the Police

Winter Parking Ban: until April 15, 2021 from 10 pm - 6 am daily. It also includes anytime it's snowing, about to snow or when snow removal is occurring. This includes all town roads with the following exemptions: Mechanic St - East Side, Broad St. - West Side, East St. - West Side, Bridge St. - South Side, Convent St. - West Side, Taylor St. - West Side, High St. - East Side, School St. - West Side

 <p>Friends of the Stone Church Present <i>A Holiday Songfest</i> featuring Tori LaFleur, soprano Lisa Woods, mezzo-soprano Clayton J. Noble, piano Kara Noble, bass Ron Newton, voice and their special guest Santa Claus</p>	<p>Both these programs will be available on YouTube in January. Check our website for when.</p> <p>www.friendsofthestonechurch.org</p>	<p>A Family Silent Film Evening Peter Pan THIS 1924 MOVIE, ACCOMPANIED BY PETER KRASINSKI ON OUR HISTORIC ORGAN IS AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE CLICK HERE TO VIEW PETER EDWIN KRASINSKI SPECIALIZING IN THE ART OF LIVE SILENT MOVIE ACCOMPANIMENT WORLD WIDE.</p> 
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TOWN EVENTS



The East Quabbin Land Trust is excited to provide free online learning resources covering a wide variety of topics. Go to eqlt.org to start exploring!



To: Town Residents

We have been notified that many of the residents are not wearing masks as required in public spaces.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the Center for Disease Control recommends the use of masks when out in public and in close proximity of others. Further, Governor Baker's Orders require masks to be worn. It is imperative to follow the Governor's mandate. There is concrete evidence that mask wearing reduces the spread of the virus.

As you may or may not be aware, there is a new mutant version of the Corona virus that has been recently identified and is highly contagious. I cannot stress enough; how dangerous it is especially for the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. I am urging you to **WEAR YOUR MASK!**

Please be advised that the number of COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts including Hardwick has been increasing at an alarming rate and the intensive care units are reaching maximum capacity. There is hope the two (2) new vaccines will work as expected. For a town this size I have had to monitor too many of the COVID-19 infected residents that's affecting all the villages of Hardwick.

Before giving merit to any rumors/hearsay regarding the vaccines, be sure to validate the information with your doctor.

Yours Truly,

Marcelino "Tex" Sarabia

Health Agent

Hardwick Board of Health

TOWN MEETING AGENDAS AND MEETING MINUTES

Please go to www.mytowngovernment.org/01031 for all department, committee, commission and board meetings and meeting agendas.

if you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please submit your request and email address to hwklet@gmail.com.

Some of the events announced here are not sponsored or approved by the Town of Hardwick or the Quabbin Regional School District. They are offered by other town organizations and are listed here in an attempt to show the range of opportunities occurring in town.

WE WILL BE ON THE WEB

CHECK THE TOWN WEB SITE