



HARDWICK NEWS

April 2020

Volume 4 Issue 4

Inside this issue:

TOWN ELECTION	1
FOOD NEEDS	1
SENIOR NEEDS	1
CIVIL DEFENSE	2
TOWN EVENTS	2

Life in the Times of COVID-19

This is a reduced newsletter due to COVID-19. If you have questions about the Town or Services check out; <http://www.townofhardwick.com/> Events listed may change so check before you commit.

The Special Town Meeting on March 16th was recessed until April 8th at 6:00pm. The date of April 8, 2020 for the recessed town meeting will be changed to a date in the future

The Town Election is scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 9, 2020 at the elementary school, Please consider to vote Early by Absentee Ballot for this election. To obtain an Early Absentee Ballot Application please go to www.townofhardwick.com/townelections.html.

FOOD PANTRY & MART TRANSPORTATION

MART will deliver food packages to the patrons of the Food Pantry and assist in any other transportation required to meet the essential needs.

For Food Pantry Delivery contact: Liz Reilly, Food Pantry Coordinator at 413-477- 6635 or Sharon Hardaker, MART Dispatcher at 413-477-6197 x122 or 774-200-5184.

For other transportation needs, simply contact Sharon Hardaker.

Free Meals for Students while school is closed at Hardwick Elementary School and Quabbin Regional.

<http://www.qrsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Free-meals-flyer.pdf>

The Quaboag Valley CDC's Hardwick Senior Outreach Program has chore providers ready to assist Hardwick's seniors during this time when seniors are being advised to stay out of heavily-populated public places. Our chore providers can shop at the grocery store, pick up prescriptions, go to the post office, etc. There is no charge for this service. Eligibility for the program is based on annual household income. Some very simple forms need to be filled out in order to determine eligibility. All of our chore providers are paid, CORI checked local people. For more information, please call 413-967-3001

Please remember to return your Town Census. If you did not receive a census form in the mail, contact the Town Clerk immediately.

This is also the year for the Federal Census. Want to help our fire fighters, police officers, senior center, Highway department with streets and roads, water & sewer Infrastructure upgrades respond to the needs of Hardwick thru grants that are available from the federal government? Did you know that \$1.5 TRILLION was distributed to state and local governments in 2018 based upon census data? Hardwick's share depends on you filling out the Federal Census. If you haven't filled out your 2020 Federal Census yet and you are sitting at home with nothing to do, fill it out and let's look forward to greater days ahead.

Civil Defense in the 21st Century

So here we are living through a disaster of biblical proportions. At the end of March it has spread everywhere in the world. It's so new that nobody has immunity from it. The scientists are moving faster than ever before to come up with drugs to treat this or a vaccine to prevent this. Right now all we can do is try not to spread it. Wash your hands a lot and stop touching your face. Protect yourself when grabbing door handles and gas pumps, use a tissue or a plastic bag. Stay at least six feet apart when you're with people.

The virus is so new and the testing so far behind that nobody knows how many of us are already infected. Perhaps one in ten. And we don't know how deadly it is, perhaps six times more than seasonal flu. They think that eighty-five percent of those that get it have mild symptoms and get through it just fine. Some people have had it and didn't even know they were sick. So it's necessary to avoid contact with other folks. If the spread of the thing can be slowed, the medical world can catch up. So by being careful, you're helping everybody else, as well as yourself. We have to each take responsibility for saving ourselves.

The big worry is that so many people are carrying this around without any symptoms. We have to treat everyone we meet as though they're sick and contagious. They certainly could be. So, stay apart. But also stay in touch. Call your family and friends. If we're good at staying apart, we'll also get lonely. Swap stories about how inconvenient this whole thing is. Check on your neighbors. Wave at them. Send postcards. Everybody in the world is going through this. Keep up the human contact. Trade recipes.

And email is a great resource here. This is the link to sign up for the Hardwick Virtual Common,. A way for us to stay connected even as we must keep apart. <http://ljcohen.net/maillinglist/mail.cgi/list/hardwick/> This new network just started up. A list-serve. Folks can send in with ideas, if they need help, if they're able to help, trade those recipes.

It'll be a couple of months of this, I'm afraid. There are enormous efforts going on to fix this. Best bet now is to stay at home and stay healthy. Spring is here, thank God the weather is being gentle. Time to plant a Victory Garden.

DOG LICENSE INFORMATION

In light of COVID-19 the Town Clerk is extending the last day to register dogs at the regular price from March 31, 2020 to April 30, 2020. Please mail your rabies certificate, a check in the correct amount and a stamped self-addressed envelope for the return of the license and rabies certificate to Town Clerk, PO Box 575, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

Male/Female = \$15.00, Spayed/Neutered = \$8.00

Please call the Town Clerk Office if you have any questions – 413-477-6700

Rent for your Event: Hardwick Town House on the Common in Hardwick

Check: Town of Hardwick website or Anne@ (413) 477 8756

Farmer's Market Starts June 21 on the Hardwick Common

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.