

Township of Hardwick

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Hardwick, New Jersey
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Winter 2023

Dear Citizens of Hardwick,

Communications are a high priority for the Township Committee. NIXLE ALERTS are utilized to broadcast important information. The system sends out both text messages and emails to everyone who signs up. Stay informed by visiting Hardwick's website at HARDWICKTWP.COM. Click on Emergency Contacts, go to the bottom of the page and click "Register with Nixle". It's so easy and we will do our best to keep you informed throughout the year. We also suggest that you regularly visit Hardwick's website. Let Kristin Shipp, Town Clerk know if there are announcements for placement on the Community Calendar section.

Hardwick has gone through a number of staff changes in the past year. The Township Committee has embraced inter-local services agreements with Blairstown to provide Township Clerk, Tax Collector and Tax Assessor services. A benefit of the service agreements is the ability for residents to contact our key officials during their Hardwick or Blairstown business hours. Hardwick's website provides contact information.

The township is planning several events in the upcoming months including:

- Hardwick Clean-up Week in May
- Document Shredding is May 13, 2023 from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the municipal building
- Hardwick Day at the Vass Farmstead in October
- Rabies Clinic in December at the Blairstown Public Works Building
- Christmas gathering at the Vass Farmstead
- Several Moonlight Paddles are being planned by Warren County for White Lake.

Announcements on times and dates will be broadcast through NIXLE Alerts and postings on Hardwick Township's website in the months to come.

We are often asked about the status of re-opening two way travel on Spring Valley Road at Ferlas Pond aka Spring Valley Preserve. Design and permit applications were submitted to NJDEP for reconstruction of a two-lane cart-way that will not be prone to flooding. Warren County will schedule the project for construction once the state approves the design and issues environmental permits.

Another common question revolves around the designation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area as a new national park. The proposal being promoted

would change the designation without the provision of concept plans or local impact studies for the public to assess and understand the ramifications of a national park in our back yard. In so many words we are told that legislation must be adopted first and then we will have to trust the National Park Service to know what is best for our region. The Hardwick Township Committee opposes any Congressional action until such time that this basic information is developed and shared locally. A project of this magnitude could have a profound impact on our community.

The provision of reliable high-speed internet and cellular services are compelling objectives for the Township Committee. We are participating in Federal Communications Commission meetings and conferences open to NJ municipal officials so as to ensure that Hardwick's concerns are in the forefront when planning for the future. A number of impacted communities are meeting and working together to promote our shared interests. Most recently, Hardwick reviewed and filed disputes over the township's coverage maps released by the FCC to ensure that our voices are heard and an accurate understanding of existing deficiencies is on record with the FCC for future reference.

In closing our mission is to preserve the rural quality of life enjoyed by Hardwick. To that end we need the support of a new generation of civic-minded residents to step forward and serve on boards and committees. Hardwick is searching for volunteers and we ask you to consider taking an active role in your town's future. Please consider attending a Town Committee on the first Wednesday of the month. Learn about your town and pick up several Hardwick re-useable shopping bags, perfect for a trip to the market.

Chris Jacksic
Mayor

Nichole Meuse
Deputy Mayor

John Lovell
Committee Member