

**JANUARY 2011- Happy New Year!**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Harding Civic Association News** The annual meeting of the Harding Township Civic Association will be held **Tuesday February 8**, at 7:00 PM, in the Township Kirby Hall. A brief business meeting, (including election for the Board of trustees, see the Harding Civic website [www.hardingcivic.org](http://www.hardingcivic.org). for names and terms of the Board) will be followed by **“An Evening with the Mayor”, Marshall Bartlett, starting at 7:30 pm**. There will be an opportunity to meet other Township Committee members. The Township committee voted Marshall Barlett the new chairman (“mayor”) at its meeting on January 6 and Regina Egea, vice-chair. If you are interested in joining as a Trustee, please either come and speak to one of the current Trustees, or write Barbara Brennan at [BarbaraJBrennan@preludeinc.com](mailto:BarbaraJBrennan@preludeinc.com); or call 973-267-2624.

### **THE KEMMERER LIBRARY**

**Winter Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.: 10 am – 5 pm**

**Thurs.: 10 am – 7 pm; Sat.: 10 am – 2 pm; Sun.: closed**

**DVDs for Borrowing:** The library has joined the Morris County DVD Circuit and receives 100 DVDs for Harding library cardholders every two months. We have new releases, classics, comedies, dramas and foreign films in this rotating collection.

**Yoga at the Library:** Senior yoga continues every Monday. Mat work at 10:45 a.m. and gentle yoga in chairs at 11:30. Teen yoga continues every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Bring your own mat. \$10 suggested donation each senior or teen, per session.

**Book Donations:** We love receiving donated books from our community, but like all libraries, we must collect material that will be popular with our patrons. Therefore, we respectfully request that donations consist of hardcover or paperback books in excellent physical condition, published in 2007 or later. We strongly prefer fiction; collect only a small amount of nonfiction, mostly biographies. We will sell, recycle or decline material we cannot keep.

**Valentine's Day Party:** Saturday, Feb. 12th, 12 noon. Children of all ages can make a valentine for someone they love.

**Anime Night:** Watch Japanese animated TV series one Thursday a month, 6-8 p.m., introduced by anime buff Katy Balog. Next two meetings: Jan. 20th and Feb. 17th.

**Pajama Story Time:** Meets one Friday a month at 7 p.m. Children can come dressed in their pajamas and listen to stories. They can also bring a stuffed toy and let it “sleep”

overnight at the library. When they pick up their toy the next day, they find out what fun things it did at its sleepover. Next two meetings: Jan. 21st and Feb. 11th.

**4th-5th Graders Book Group:** Next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 3rd, 4 p.m. Snacks served. February's book is *Lily's Crossing* by Patricia Reilly Giff.

**Books, Babies and Songs:** Wednesdays at 10 a.m. A program of short storytelling and songs for infants and older babies.

**Toddler Time:** Mondays at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 2-4. Children will hear stories, sing songs and make a theme-related craft.

**Teen Advisory Group:** Thurs, Jan. 27th, 4 p.m. Teens in grades 7 and up share ideas for the library.

**Adult Book Group:** Wed, Feb. 2nd, 7:30 p.m. The book is *Molok'ai* by Alan Brennert.

#### **FROM THE HARDING POLICE:**

The Harding Township Police Department is investigating a suspicious incident that occurred on 1/11/11 in the township. A local resident on Young's Road was contacted at her home via telephone by an unknown company calling to schedule an appointment to service the heating system in the residence. Two Caucasian men arrived the next morning in a white van with no markings. The men were allowed into the home to begin work. Shortly after the victim was told of much needed repair on her chimney and the estimated cost. Subjects attempted to work out a price for repair. After being told by the resident the chimney was non-working the male subjects left the home. Anyone with additional information regarding this activity is asked to contact Detective Lieutenant Dan Nunn at 973-455-0500. Harding Police urge all residents to be aware of this recent activity in the Township and call the Harding Township Police if they feel that they have been targeted by a potential fraudulent scam; do not let anyone enter your home without proper identification.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

The Health Department is in the process of planning their Female and Male Cancer Screening clinics with the Adult Health blood work clinic. The clinics will be held in March and April but no definitive dates have yet been determined. Please refer to the Health Department information line at 973/267-8000 extension 190 for updated information.

Reminder: If you reside in Harding Township and own a **dog** (age 7 months and older), that dog or dogs must be licensed every year by January 31, 2011. According to state law, in order for a license to be issued, you must submit proof of a valid rabies

vaccination which is good through October 31, 2011. If your license application does not reach the health department by February 28, 2011, you will be subject to a \$10 late fee for each dog beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> of 2011. Forms have been sent to all residents; please return to the Harding Township Health Department, Box 666, New Vernon, New Jersey 07976. Due to the overwhelming demand of in-person licensing, should you choose not to return the form by mail and wish to license your dog in person, please contact Lisa at the Health Department at 973-267-8000 ext. 125 to schedule an appointment.

The licensing fees help pay for the **free rabies clinic** held the first Saturday in November, the animal control contract with Saint Hubert's Animal Shelter, and the low cost neutering program sponsored by the State. Also, if your dog decides to wander, the license, when properly worn by your pet, will be helpful in returning your dog to you.

**THE HARDING TWIG**, a branch of the Women's Association of Morristown Memorial Hospital, will be hosting its second annual cocktail party on **Saturday January 22, 2011**. Funds raised will directly benefit programs and services at the Pediatric Emergency Center. The evening will include cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a presentation by Dr. Harvey Bennett of the Pediatric Concussion Center on the topic of concussions in children. Tickets are \$100 per person. Those interested in attending should contact [hardingtwig@verizon.net](mailto:hardingtwig@verizon.net).

**Friends of Kemmerer Library Tribute Cards:** Here's a new way to support the library. Purchase all-occasion tribute cards at the library and send them to friends and family. These beautiful cards are a unique alternative to store-bought greetings cards, specially designed by Willy Jurissen. Price: \$5/each or six for \$25. 100% of the proceeds go directly to the library. These beautiful cards were specially designed by resident Willy Jurissen. Available at the library desk or by calling Willy Jurissen, 973-984-2634

**HARDING ALLIANCE AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE:**

The mission is to provide education and resources to promote healthy decision-making and to avoid substance abuse and risky behaviors. Harding Alliance members are concerned citizens, police, and health and school professionals. Next meeting is **January 19, at 8:30 AM** in the Guidance Office of Harding Township School. Check out our new [website](https://sites.google.com/site/hardingalliance/) at <https://sites.google.com/site/hardingalliance/> for further information about Harding Alliance. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Judy Malloy, Chairperson, at [judymotown@gmail.com](mailto:judymotown@gmail.com).

## **HARDING TOWNSHIP WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife strongly advises to avoid feeding all wildlife including deer, during the winter period and throughout the year. Deer adapt physiologically as well as behaviorally to the change of season. Under most conditions winter feeding is of no value in maintaining deer populations and may be detrimental to both, deer and their habitat. Winter feeding concentrates animals, but provides only a portion of their nutritional requirements. The result is increased browsing on preferred native food plants causing a reduction of these food sources and an increased feeding on less nutritious foods.

## **TOWNSHIP NEWS:**

### **Township Committee Meeting – December 15, 2010**

Preliminary 2011 Municipal Budget Calls for 2.55% Property Tax Increase

At the December 15<sup>th</sup> Township Committee meeting, the first cut at the 2011 town budget was presented. As we have reported, “benchmarking” has been used to compare Harding’s spending for the largest departments (police, health and DPW) with spending in neighboring towns. The results of the benchmarking have been reviewed at prior meetings and reported in Thumbnail.

At the 12/15 meeting, preliminary revenue and expense estimates were presented, and the impact of the 2% Tax Levy Cap was analyzed. In 2009, there was \$2.053 billion of taxable property (assessed value) in Harding Township. With increases from construction and decreases from successful tax appeals, that number is expected to be inch up just slightly in 2011 and 2012. An increase in the cost of municipal services will be born largely by existing residents. There are few newcomers as would be the case in a town that is growing rapidly.

In 2010, \$5.298 MM (62%) of Harding’s \$8.545MM in total revenues was generated by property taxes. The rest came from consuming prior year’s surplus (\$1.87mm), municipal revenues i.e. fees (\$570K), Energy Tax Receipts (\$457K), construction fees (\$215K), and delinquent taxes (\$135K).

To control property taxes, the State caps tax levy increase at 2%. However, the state also allows exceptions for three expense items – pensions, health benefits and debt service – that have historically been the budget busters. So much for the 2% cap! With these exceptions, Harding might be allowed a roughly 3.6% maximum tax levy increase. A preliminary budget, totaling \$8.744 mm in spending (up 2.32%) was presented. On the revenue side, this preliminary budget assumed tax collections at 99%

(only 1% uncollectible) and no new fee increases, except for those that are automatically adjusted. Recall that in 2010, many fees were increased dramatically but this appears unlikely to happen to increase 2011 revenue.

On the expense side the following are key items driving the budget:

1. 2% salary increase for employees not covered by the PBA (police) contract;
2. Legal Services expense – up \$55K, or 77% - for various land use litigation
3. Engineering – up \$40K, or 100%, for various land use disputes
4. Public Employee Pensions – up \$27K, or 20%
5. Police Pensions - up \$66K, or 20%
6. Health Insurance budget – reduced \$25K
7. Social Security reduced by \$25K
8. No increase in COAH (Council on Affordable Housing) spending

What does this mean for your property tax bill? Assume the 2011 appropriations (aka spending) remains at the total of \$8.744 million, then subtracting the estimated \$3.311mm of revenues that come from sources other than property taxes leaves \$5.433mm. To balance the budget, this \$5.433 mm must be raised from property taxes. That's an increase of \$135,170, or 2.55% over 2010.

In conclusion, based on this preliminary budget, property owners would see a 2.55% increase in the MUNICIPAL portion of their property tax bill. Remember that municipal taxes account for only about a quarter of your property taxes. School taxes (about half) and county taxes (about a quarter) make up the balance.

On **January 19, 2011** a draft budget along with local tax impact, will be reviewed in public. Citizens that are interested and want to make their opinions heard should attend that Township Committee meeting – 7:30 PM at Kirby Hall.

### **Township Committee Meeting – January 5, 2011**

#### **Organization Meeting**

This meeting was the annual organization meeting. Marshall Bartlett was elected for a second term as Chairman/Mayor of the Township and Regina Egea was elected as Vice Chair. Nic Platt was sworn in for his first elected term as Township Committee member.

The Township organization portion of the meeting was followed by remarks from the Mayor. Mr. Bartlett praised the work of the DPW during the recent snow storm. He also recognized the contributions of the many volunteers in the town. Finally he recognized the contribution of the fire department and first aid squad and all they do for the town. A full list of the representatives on the Standing Committees and

Board/Commission Liaisons can be found on the Civic Assn. website at [www.hardingcivic.org](http://www.hardingcivic.org).

**OPRA Records Loop Hole** Mr. Bartlett also made a request of the state representatives, in attendance at the meeting: Jon Bramnick, Nancy Munoz, and Thomas Kean, asking they consider amending the Open Public Records law. It seems that a person from Sparta under the guise of being a "public advocate" has found a loop hole in the law that is making him money. The law states a government entity has 7 days to fulfil a records request or ask for an extension. This "public advocate" from Sparta came to Harding with multiple voluminous requests for records. In one of the requests he wanted our Township Administrator's home address. The town withheld that information pending legal counsel; however, the town supplied everything else within 5 days.

The way the law is written, if the requestor does not get all of the information which he/she is entitled to, the person can file a suit with the court or Governor's Records Council. There is no requirement that the person notify the township that the information is missing. If the town is found not to have given out a public record, whether intentionally or by accident, the filer is entitled to collect attorney's fees. This "public advocate" has been all over Sussex County asking for records in various towns and school districts. Once he finds a situation where a public record is missing, he files suit to collect attorney's fees under the guise of a "public advocate".

Under the current law, the Township Administrator's home address is a public record and if that information is withheld, the Administrator could be fined personally. Mr. Bartlett requested that the Township employees home information be protected, as the elected officials are already protected, and that the OPRA law be amended to require someone who does not receive a record that was requested, must notify the government agency before filing suit with the court or the Governor's Record Council.

**Municipal Court** Harding Township has completed a multi-year negotiation to share services for the municipal court with Madison, Chatham Township, and Chatham Borough. The municipal court will now be held in Madison. This change takes effect on February 1, 2011. Madison just completed a \$10 million dollar renovation and has a state-of-the-art courtroom. Under the agreement Harding will pay 16.83% of the costs. The percentage is based on usage and will be adjusted at the beginning of each year. After the initial transition it is expected that Harding will save \$50K-80K per year. Harding has the option to withdraw if the arrangement does not work out. Mr. Lanzerotti noted that future security upgrades would likely be required if the court remained in Harding and that those upgrades would be very costly. A resident asked if the court will

continue to enforce local Harding ordinances, since they may be different from Madison and Mr. Bartlett answered that all local ordinances will be enforced.

**HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION , December 20, 2010**

**Roll Call:** All present. **Discussion/Presentation:**

NJTAP-IN: Dr. Purnell presented notes on computer and information literacy requirements (NJTAP-IN) and the general rubric involved. The rubric includes basic skills and tools (nine sections) and application of productivity (seven sections). Dr. Purnell explained the rubric using an archer metaphor: a rubric gives the students a target for which to aim. The final scoring for this rubric is Advanced Proficient, 3; Proficient, 2; Partially Proficient, 1; and Novice, 0 for each section of the rubric (total of 48 points). In order to pass the NJTAP-IN, students must score a proficient score of 31 or higher. Every single Harding Township student scored proficient or advanced proficient; in fact, only one standard on the rubric did not have a student achieve an AP score. **BUDGET PRIORITIES:** Dr. Purnell plans to present the first draft of the budget at the end of January or the beginning of February.

**REPORTS:**

**Superintendent Report:** Dr. Purnell announced that he will be posting the “Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act” on his superintendent’s corner website. The anti-bullying program’s goal at Harding Township school is to empower and to educate the bystander to bullying, thereby aiding a quick cessation of bullying when it does occur, as it does at every school. He recommended that Emily Grenuzzo and Kelly Daly take the positions of Anti-Bullying coordinator and specialist, respectively, which are unpaid positions. The only foreseeable cost for the anti-bullying program at Harding School would be possible training costs. The school safety committee was formed previously.

**Business Administrator Report:** The cleaning service employed by Harding Township School, which fields three employees at the school, is not unionized. If the service decides to become unionized, (a possibility) our school may see a possible increase of \$18,000 per annum in cleaning fees.

**Madison Board of Education Report:** The Madison teachers’ contracts have been renewed. Madison schools are currently interviewing for a superintendent, and hope to have their search completed by the second week of January.

**Vision Council Report:** The Board discussed the creation of a feedback form to involve the Vision Council in the search for Harding’s new superintendent while simultaneously respecting privacy laws.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

- A1: The Board approved Emily Granuzzo and Kelly Daly as anti-bullying coordinator and anti-bullying specialist, respectively.
- B1: Board of Education Secretary's November 2010 Financial Report Accepted.
- B2: Financial Report of the Treasurer for School Monies Accepted.
- B3: Secretary's Report Shows No Over-Expenditures.
- B4: Appropriation Transfers for the 2010-2011 School Year Approved.
- B5: The Board approved the payment of bills as per the listings dated December 20, 2010 and affixed to the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of the same date.
- B6: The Student Activities Account Reconciliation Report was approved.
- B7: The Board of Education approved the shared services of a pump station operator with the Township of Harding.
- B8: The application for use of school facilities by the HTRA Girls' Lacrosse was approved. Dates of use are: Mondays through Thursdays from 5:15 pm to 6:30 pm and Saturdays from 9 to 11 am from 26 March 2011 to 1 June 2011.
- B9: The Board accepted the 2009-2010 Audit and Audit Manager's Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.
- C1: Field Trip approval for three trips tabled for lack of documentation.
- C2: STEM Curriculum approved for the 2010-2011 school year.

**Hearing of the Public Regarding Agenda Items and Non-Agenda Items:**

While no public was in attendance, Dev Mondri brought up public interest in school uniforms. Parents have approached Dev with an interest in instituting school uniforms. Board discussion concluded that school uniforms can be used at public schools. No action on this non-agenda item at this time. At the close of the public meeting the Board moved to executive session.

**PLANNING BOARD, November 15, 2010** Roll Call: Virginia Moriarty absent.

Announcements/Reports/Discussion: It was reported that the Fawn Hill property had been sold for \$6.7MM; it remains to be seen whether the new owner will follow through on the previous owner's application. Mr. Bartlett reported a lack of progress on the Hawk's Nest drainage issue. Homeowners are not clear about the agreement whereby they are required to maintain the drainage system for stormwater. Mr. Fox will inspect the system to see if there is a problem, and reiterate to the homeowners their responsibilities to comply with the maintenance requirements. Mr. Dietz reported that the Environmental Commission was working on an update to the lighting ordinance and modifications to the tree ordinance. Ms. Egea reported that the Downtown Committee is in the process of collecting baseline information and considering options for developing

the Cook property (such as a pocket park). Ms. DiTosto reported that the Cell Tower Advisory Committee had met and asked T-Mobile for more information. The Committee also informed the DOT that other sites are being considered, and will look at the town's ordinance to see if it needs to be updated. Mr. Bartlett reported that the Township Committee will be looking at the Primrose purchase, and that the Committee may be asked to increase the contribution from Green Acres funds.

#### Resolution

PB-01-10, Applicant **William and Richard Blanchard**, Block 26, Lots 13 and 13.01, 42 Glen Alpin Road. Action: Request for Extension of Approval and Request for Modification of Approval Condition. A resolution was approved that permits the applicant to delay bonding of improvements until the improvements are needed. Applicant agreed to place conservation markers before year end.

#### Applications

PB-05-10, Applicant **1300 Mt. Kemble Avenue Associates LLC**, Block 46.01, Lot 10, 1300 Mt. Kemble Avenue. Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan with Variance. Action: Completeness Waivers; if deemed complete, Set Site Inspection. Waivers for completeness were asked for, among other things, Board of Health approval (not yet received), submission to DEP since there are no wetlands, a stormwater management report, certain topographic contours since there will be no grading, and report from the Fire Department. Completeness waivers were approved. The applicant's engineer then gave a brief overview of the project, including where the solar panels will be placed. He also noted that a coverage variance would be required for additional coverage of roughly 4%. A site inspection was set for December 4, 2010 at 10am.

### **PLANNING BOARD December 13, 2010**

Roll Call: Robert Edgar and Thomas dePoortere absent.

#### Announcements/Reports/Discussion:

Mr. Fox described a proposed application requirement that a CD containing plan information be included in the checklist. There was some concern expressed that this requirement might be burdensome for a minor development application, but Mr. Fox assured the Board that producing pdfs of documents was not a big deal. The Board then approved Mr. Fox's recommendation that an ordinance be proposed to the Township Committee to add the requirement to the checklist. It was reported that the Advisory Review Committee had discussed the need to review fire pits and barbecue pits. Discussions at HOST included the bridle path on the Cutler property. The Cell

Tower Advisory Committee met to consider several sites, and T-Mobile will be before the Board of Adjustment on Thursday to see if their application is complete.

Applications

PB 12-08, Applicant: The **Cutler Partnership, LP**, Block 4, Lots 1 and 4, Red Gate Road. Minor Subdivision with Variance. Action: Extension of Board Approval. The applicant's attorney reported that the neighbors had signed the shared drive agreement (after some litigation), and deeds were approved, but is asking for six-month extension to finalize bonding (although time should shorter). Mr. Newlin indicated that there was still an issue with the bridle path, but the attorney indicated that no one wanted to accept the easement. Representatives of the Bridle Path Association were present and said they would accept the easement. Extension approved.

PB 04-10, **Applicant Gloria Glatt/Fawn Hill Associates**, Block 4, Lots 21 and 21.01, 655-665 Spring Valley Road. Preliminary and Final Major Subdivision with Variances. Action: Request for Adjournment to January 24, 2011 meeting. Adjournment approved.

PB-05-10, Applicant **1300 Mt. Kemble Avenue Associates LLC**, Block 46.01, Lot 10, 1300 Mt. Kemble Avenue. Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan with Variance. Action: Continue Public Hearing. Revised plans were submitted to the Board based on comments by the Board, Mr. Fox and Ms. Kimball. The applicant's engineer then reviewed the plans for installation of solar panels. Mr. Fox is to agree on what number of trees is adequate for screening towards the front of the property. Fencing around inverters will be changed from chain link to simulated wood. Shoe box LED lights will be used under the parking canopy. Mr. Fox reported that panels on the roof won't be visible from the ground. The dumpster area was a problem, but the engineer changed the gate position. The applicant agreed to a detention basin upgrade by putting the appropriate orifice in place. It was noted that landscaping to south of main entrance could use some additional screening. The Fire Department has reviewed the plans and doesn't have any concerns. Variances will be needed for (1) accessory structure in "front yard" (not deemed significant since structure will not be in front of building and vegetation will mitigate impact), and (2) additional lot coverage of 4.674%. The requirements for the variance appear to be met (benefits outweigh negatives, etc.), and the additional coverage would be at the end of the detention basin and would not be visible. A resolution was passed approving the revised plan with the two required variances and other items the applicant agreed to during the meeting.

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

***The following letter has been sent to the Thumbnail Editor with a request for inclusion into this issue. The article to which the letter refers is reprinted below the letter.***

“Dear Editor,

The citizens of Harding can usually rely on the Civic Association Thumbnail to provide them with balanced, accurate information on important issues in Harding. Unfortunately the December article on the Primrose Preserves discussion that took place at the Township Committee meeting was neither; made all the more discouraging in that the citizen quoted was the Civic Association’s reporter and is an officer of the Association.

Open, constructive dialogue can be expected to represent a variety of opinions but when the fundamental facts are misrepresented that dialogue is unlikely to be either open or constructive and ultimately detrimental to good decision making. To facilitate open discussion here are some facts and some balancing comments:

The total Primrose Farms Estates negotiated price is \$9.5 million for 127+ acres (not the 30+ acres reported). This equates to an average of just under \$75,000 per acre for a 13 lot subdivision already approved by Harding. A comparison is then drawn by the commenter/reporter with the recent auction sale of the Glatt property correctly reported as 35 acres selling at \$6.7 million or just over \$185,000 an acre. The article then quotes that Glatt is a “... hilltop parcel with a “Mansion in May” house...” while Primrose “(has) ...substantial wetlands and (is) within earshot of I-287.” Okay as far as it went, but there are wetlands on Glatt and there is professional opinion that the house will require substantial remodeling to be habitable to the point that demolition and rebuilding is a cost effective option. The Glatt property is certainly not subject to the noise of I-287, but it should be noted that considerable development has already taken place in even closer proximity to I-287 than Primrose and that recent sales of homes in that corridor do not reflect discounts any deeper than comparable housing elsewhere in Harding. To be complete it would also have been helpful for the article to note that Primrose has a Harding-approved subdivision for 13 lots where as Glatt has only begun the application process to subdivide 2 lots into 4. Subdivision can be costly and time consuming to achieve and can be expected to increase the value of the underlying land.

The citizen/reporter then notes that "... this sale supports the argument that the open space purchase process that relies heavily on appraisals is fundamentally flawed." The authority for this conclusion is not noted but it flies in the face of the fiscal oversight of the State and County agencies that oversee the distribution of these public tax dollars and process that has been in place for decades.

The Harding Land Trust is pleased to be able to take the lead on this project on behalf of the Harding Open Space Trust Committee and the Township Committee and again on behalf of those groups we welcome open, constructive and informed dialogue regardless of viewpoint. We would welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information you feel would be useful to your readers. Please contact HLT at 973-267-2515 or [tina@hardinglandtrust.org](mailto:tina@hardinglandtrust.org) if you would like additional information. Sincerely, John Murray, President Tina Bologna, Executive Director"

***Excerpt from the December 2010 Thumbnail:***

***"Primrose Preserve.*** *In the open public discussion, a citizen noted that an executive (closed) session was scheduled following the open TC meeting and that the contract for the purchase of the Primrose Preserve property for open space would be considered. The citizen asked the TC that as they deliberate the consider the price (\$9.6mm) being paid by the public (though only indirectly by Harding citizens) for Primrose Preserve (a 30+ acre parcel with substantial wet lands and within earshot of I-287) in light of the price that was paid by a private buyer for the Glatt estate on Spring Valley Road just a week ago. The Glatt property, a 35 acre hilltop parcel with a "Mansion in May" house, barn and gardens, sold for just \$6.7 million. The citizen stated that this sale supports the argument that the open space purchase process that relies heavily on appraisals is fundamentally flawed. And that it seems the public gets a worse deal than developers whether buyers or sellers. Township committee person Lanzerotti, pointed out that the County recently cut their contribution to the funding of Primrose by \$1mm from \$3.45mm. The implications of this for the purchase were not clear. A second member of the public said that at the purchase price of \$9.6mm, the aborted development group will make a profit over their purchase price of \$7.75mm. This fact was disputed as not being an "apples to apples" comparison and that the property is more valuable since it was subdivided."*

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, no reports this month**

**Civic Association News and Announcements**

**Civic Association:** The **DEADLINE FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL are February 4 and March 4, respectively.** Current and past issues of Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are also on our Website: <http://www.hardingcivic.org>. Send questions or comments about Thumbnail to editor, **email address:** [hesnaj@verizon.net](mailto:hesnaj@verizon.net), or the Harding Township Civic Association, PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976. The Civic Association website, [www.hardingcivic.org](http://www.hardingcivic.org), is updated frequently; we post events and announcements sent to our e-mail address: [submissions@hardingcivic.org](mailto:submissions@hardingcivic.org).

**TOWNSHIP RECYCLING**

**The Hours of operation are every Wednesday** from 7AM. to noon (7– 9AM self service); and every other **Saturday: 9AM to noon.**

**Commingled Recyclables:** consists of all aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles, and only plastic bottles and containers with the Recycling symbol, and #1 or #2. Try to crush plastic bottle to conserve space. Please remember no plastic or paper bags.

**Commingled Mixed Paper 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) and Propane tanks (BBQ size only) **PLEASE NOTE:** As of January 1, 2011 Computers and all related peripherals, i.e. printers and monitors; and televisions **cannot** be put into the municipal trash collection center. These have to be recycled at the Morris County MUA center, call 973 829 8006 for more information. Tracy Toribio of Harding Twp DPW will answer your recycling questions 973 267 2448, Mon- Fri 8:30 am to 3 pm. **A Township-wide Fall Clean-up Day is scheduled for September 26, 2011.**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**, meetings as noted.

Environmental Commission (1 <sup>st</sup> Monday)	7:30 PM
Seniors (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday)Chrst KingCh	11 AM
Planning Board (4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	7:30 PM
Hist Preservtion Comm (1stThursday)	7:30 PM
Board of Health (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	8 PM
Board of Education (1st and 3rd Monday)	7:30 PM
Board of Adjustment (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday)	7:30 PM
Township Committee(3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed)	7:30 PM
Harding Open Space (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed)	7:30 PM
Harding Twp Civic Association (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed)	7:30 PM
Municipal Court- has merged with Madison NJ Court	