

FEBRUARY 2011

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FROM THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION. Interested in Running for School Board or Township Committee? *Two important elections*** are coming up in the next few months. The School budget represents approximately **50%** of your tax bill. The **SCHOOL BOARD/BUDGET ELECTION** will be held on **April 27** this year. We will be voting for board members to fill two 3 year terms and one 1 year term. Anyone interested in running for a position on the School Board needs to file a petition with the signatures of 10 registered voters by **March 8**. Additional requirements can be found at: <http://www.njsba.org/candidacy/>.

The Municipal budget represents approximately **25%** of your tax bill. We will be voting for two members of the **Township Committee**. The Primary will be held on **June 7** of this year. Anyone wishing to run for Township Committee as a member of a party can obtain a petition from the Township Administrator, Gail McKane. Party affiliated petitions are due by April 11. Petitions to run as an independent are due by 4pm the day of the Primary Election. *Pending legislation may change these dates. Please contact Gail McKane for the most up-to-date information.* For more information about running with a party or as an independent please visit: <http://www.hardingcivic.org/your-civic-association/how-to-get-involved/170-how-to-run-for-township-committee.html>. *For those of you wondering where the other 25% of your tax bill goes- a small portion goes to open space and the county gets the rest.*

**HARDING TWP REC SUMMER FIELD HOCKEY CAMPS - REGISTER!!**

Registrations are now being accepted for the 2011 Harding Township Recreation Association (HTRA) Field Hockey Camps. This year, in addition to our full week camps for 4th-8th graders, we are expanding our Mini-Camp to include 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Dates are as follows:

Session 1	4th-8th Grades	July 25-29
Session 2	4th-8th Grades	August 1-5
Session 3	8th-12th Grades	August 8-11 (mini-camp)

Please note these are grade levels as of September, 2011.

All sessions will meet from 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. at the Harding Township School, 34 Lee's Hill Road, New Vernon, NJ. Space is limited to 49 players per session, so we urge you to register ASAP -- **in the past, the program has filled up in a matter of weeks so please sign up as soon as you can to guarantee a space.** For more information

and enrollment materials please call John Keating at 908-730-7108 or email [bennettkea@aol.com](mailto:bennettkea@aol.com).

**HTRA Summer Day Camp** – enrollment is now open!

The Harding Twp. Recreation Association is pleased to offer its Summer Day Camp program this year from June 27<sup>th</sup> - July 22<sup>rd</sup>; (closed July 4<sup>th</sup>) Campers can enroll for as many weeks as they wish. Camp hours are from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The HTRA Day Camp has been operating for over 35 years and offers programs for children age 3-12 years of age. Located at the Harding Township School in New Vernon, daily activities include Arts & Crafts, Swimming, Sports & Games, Computer Lab and other fun activities. Children participate in groups with similar age. The Polliwog program is offered for 3 and 4 year olds and runs from 9 am – Noon, with the option to enroll for the extended day program which runs till 3 pm. Science enrichment program for grades 1-4 and swimming lessons for children entering Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade, for an additional fee. The Camp Director, LuAnn Romano is an Elementary School Teacher and has been with the HTRA Camp for over 30 years. More information and forms on website [www.hardingtowshipdaycamp.com](http://www.hardingtowshipdaycamp.com), or email to [promano59@comcast.net](mailto:promano59@comcast.net) or call at 973-326-1775.

**NEW VERNON PRESBYTERIAN NURSERY SCHOOL** is now accepting registrations for the next School Year. We offer classes for 2 ½, 3 and 4 year olds. For more information, or to schedule a visit, please contact our director, Denise Keevil, at 973-326-9839.

**HARDING TOWNSHIP WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

In response to a question from a Thumbnail reader, Karl Meister spoke to someone at the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife; although sympathetic to birds and those who feed them, it is recommended that bird feeders be taken down at night, to prevent deer and bear damage.

**NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Soup Contest** -- It's time once again for the Auxiliary sponsored "Home-made Soup Contest", on **Sunday, March 20**, 5:00-6:00 PM; Fire House, Village Rd; Cost: \$6.00 for soup, bread, coffee. Homemade desserts and soda will be available for sale. Come early. Vote for your favorite soup. Prizes will be awarded. If you would like to enter a soup in the contest, entry is free.

Please call Connie Cherrillo @ 973-539-9383 or Pat O'Reilly @ 973-919-2183 to enter a soup or for more information.

### **FRIENDS OF THE KEMMERER LIBRARY**

*Save the Date!* Art-in-Bloom, the biannual gala to support the operating expenses of the Kemmerer Library, will be held on **Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** from 6-9 pm. Art-in-Bloom is always a great community party, with wonderful food and over 60 artists displaying their original works for sale. If you would like to volunteer to help plan the event, or can offer to help for an hour or two the night of the event, please e-mail Carol Conger Vellekamp at [carolrconger@yahoo.com](mailto:carolrconger@yahoo.com).

**A CALL TO ARTISTS!** Those artists, who would like to participate and did not participate in the 2007 exhibit and sale, should email to [donvellekamp@yahoo.com](mailto:donvellekamp@yahoo.com) or mail their information to Art-in-Bloom, PO Box 555, New Vernon, NJ 07976.

### **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**

**Library Survey:** *The Kemmerer Library has created a town-wide survey to collect feedback to guide our efforts to expand our collection of books, services, and programs to better serve the Harding community. Our goal is to get feedback from those who use the library and those who don't. With community-wide survey results, the Library also will be able to support its applications for funding from private foundations and other grants. A copy of the survey is enclosed in your copy of the Thumbnail at pages 5 and 6; it is seven questions long and will take just a few minutes to complete. Please return your completed survey to the library in person or via mail (P.O. Box 283, NV 07976-0283) or fill it out online via the link on our website: [www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org). Thank you very much for your help!*

**Meeting Rooms:** The library has three beautiful meeting rooms available for use by Harding and surrounding-area nonprofits and businesses for modest custodial fees. Policy, waiver form and application are all accessible at [www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org), or call Mary Witherell at 973-267-2665, x102.

**Yoga for Seniors:** Meets every Monday at 10:45 a.m. with mats and/or at 11:30 for gentle, seated yoga. Wear comfortable clothes. Modest donations are requested, which will be split between instructor MJ Turnbull and the library.

**DVDs:** The library now offers seven-day borrowing of an assortment of films: comedies, dramas, new releases, classics, foreign. Our 100-movie selection will change completely in March.

**Adult Book Group:** Next meeting is Wednesday, February 23rd at 7:30 p.m. This month's selection is *Molok'ai* by Alan Brennert.

**Fourth- and Fifth-Grade Book Group:** Meets one Thursday a month at 4 p.m. Next meeting: March 3rd. We will be reading the first installment in the "Warriors" series, *Into the Wild* by Erin Hunter. Copies available at the library.

**Story Time for children ages 2-4:** Mondays at 10:30 a.m. **Toddler Time for children ages 1-3:** Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Includes songs and short stories.

**Teen Advisory Group:** Next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 24th, at 4 p.m. Teens, come share your ideas about the library!

**Book Donations:** The library is delighted to accept books published in 2007 or more recently that are in excellent condition. If you have more than a handful of items to donate, please arrange an appointment to have a member of the staff assess which items will meet our needs. Thank you to all those who have given us so many wonderful books since we arrived in our new building!

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

The Health Department is having a free Female Cancer Screening on **Thursday, March 24, 2011**, from 9am to 11am at the Municipal Building. The screening includes an exam by a doctor, PAP test, blood pressure, and educational materials. Male Cancer Screening will be held on **Tuesday, April 12, 2011**, from 5 pm to 6:30 pm in the Municipal Building. The screening includes; an exam by a physician, blood pressure, PSA blood test, and information material. A free Adult Health Fasting Bloodwork clinic will be held on **Tuesday, April 5, 2011** from 8am to 11am at the Municipal Building.

***Appointments are necessary for all screenings;*** to schedule an appointment (18 years of age or older) for the above clinics, please call 973-267-8000, ext.125.

### **Dog Licenses:**

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 February 28, 2011. After February 28<sup>th</sup>, a late fee of \$10 per dog will be charged. By State law, in order for a license to be issued, the dog's rabies immunity must be good through October 31, 2011. If your dog's rabies expires before October 31<sup>st</sup>, they will require a booster immunization before a license can be given. Any questions, please call 973/267-8000, extension 125.

**KEMMERER LIBRARY OF HARDING TOWNSHIP**  
**COMMUNITY SURVEY**

The Kemmerer Library of Harding Township has created this town-wide survey to collect feedback to guide our efforts to expand our collection of books, services, and programs to better serve the Harding community. Our goal is to get feedback from those who use the library and those who don't. With community-wide survey results, the Library also will be able to support its applications for funding from private foundations and other grants. **Kindly deliver the completed survey to the Library (19 Blue Mill Road; P.O. Box 283, NV) or complete online via the Library website at [www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org)**

**1. How often do you or your family members use a public library?**

	Once per week	Once per month	Few times/year	Never
<b>Kemmerer Library Harding Twp</b>				
<b>Other Library</b> <i>Please name:</i>				

**2. If you or your family members do not use the Kemmerer Library at least once every six months, what are the primary reasons you do not?**

- I do not typically use any public library
- I use another library: \_\_\_\_\_
- I don't think the Kemmerer Library has anything to offer me
- The Kemmerer Library hours do not fit with my schedule
- OTHER (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**3. The Library subscribes to the Star Ledger and Observer Tribune. Please check THREE other newspapers/periodicals you would like to read in the library:**

	First Preference	Second Preference	Third Preference
The Wall Street Journal			
The New York Times			
Barron's			
The Economist			
Financial Times			
Other:			

**4. Please check THREE types of magazines you would like the library to add to its current collection**  
*The library subscribes to Better Homes & Gardens, Bon Appetit, Discover, Esquire, National Geographic, Martha Stewart Living, New Yorker, NJ Monthly, Prevention, Science News, Sports Illustrated, Vanity Fair):*

	First	Second Preference	Third Preference
Business			
Travel			
Gardening			
Home décor			
Consumer product reviews			
Other:			

5. Please tell us the areas of the library's collection you would like to see expanded. Check up to **FIVE** categories in each column:

	ADULT	TEEN	CHILDREN	AUDIOBOOKS	E-BOOKS
Bestsellers – Fiction					
Bestsellers- Nonfiction					
History					
Mystery					
Romance					
Business					
Travel					
Health					
Scienc/Tech					
Biography					
Cooking					
Self-help					
Gardening					
Movies					
Large Print					
Other					

6. Which of the following programs or services would you or your family members be likely to attend/use?

	ADULTS	TEENS	CHILDREN
Speakers (suggest a topic: _____)			
Downloadable e-book/audiobook training			
Technology skills training			
Services for your book club			
Research help from librarians			
Homework help			
Recreational activities or clubs			
Game nights			

7. Are you aware that you can get the following at the Kemmerer Library? If yes, please also check those services you use.

	Y	N	Use		Y	N	Use
Books from libraries across the state with Harding pickup				Online access to most US newspapers			
Free downloadable e-books				DVDs			
Audiobooks				Public PCs/Internet/Wi-fi			

Please provide any additional comments you feel would improve the Kemmerer Library.

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### **HARDING ALLIANCE AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE:**

Check out the new parenting collection at the Harding Kemmerer Library. Titles on developmental milestones of children and substance abuse awareness have been added. Thank you to Jen Carlin, Children's Librarian, for her assistance with this project.

Our 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. Please come and let your voice be heard. Our next meeting is **April 27, at 8:30 AM** in the Guidance Office of Harding Township School. Register for updates to our new [website](https://sites.google.com/site/hardingalliance/) at <https://sites.google.com/site/hardingalliance/> and our blog at <http://hardingalliance.blogspot.com/>. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Judy Malloy, Chairperson, at [judymotown@gmail.com](mailto:judymotown@gmail.com).

### **TOWNSHIP NEWS: January 19, 2011**

#### *Contract Renewals, Redevelopment Report and Other*

Early every year, the Township renews contracts with service providers for a total potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars, these are for 2011:

Township Attorney – Woolson Sutphen Anderson  
Special Counsel (land acquisition) – Dillon, Bitar & Luther  
Special Counsel (labor matters) – Knapp, Trimboli & Prusinowski  
Township Auditor: Suplee Clooney & Co – audit (\$25.5K) and finc'l stmts (\$4.7k)  
Engineer – Apgar Associates - \$68K budgeted, engineer at \$137/hr  
Public Defender – D'Alessandro & Jacovino – lump sum  
Insurance Broker – Willis of NJ - 3% of assessment, no cap  
Risk Manager – James F Hurley Agency - % of assessment  
Planner – Kimball Professional Planners – Susan Kimball, \$135/hour  
Bond Counsel – Rogut McCarthy; spend should be minimal in 2011  
Tree Conservation Officer – The Shade Tree Department - \$85/hour  
GIS/IT Consultant – Chris Allyn  
Employee Assistance Program – Atlantic Health; \$2500/year

A Tax Appeal was approved for a property at 599 Van Beuren which changed hands in May of 2009 and the assessed value of \$2.65 mm was deemed to be out of line. Assessment adjusted to \$2.3 mm.

#### *Open Public Records Act – Improvements in the Offing?*

At January special TC meeting, Harding committee person highlighted flaws in the Open Public Records Act statute to NJ State Assemblyman Jon Bramnick. OPRA opens state, county and municipal records to public view. OPRA was critical in helping the Star Ledger to expose the alleged rampant corruption at the Passaic Valley Sewer Commission whose Board the Governor recently fired en mass. The flaw in OPRA allows a few gadflies to profit from penalties the law demands. Harding has been stung by one of these legal profiteers. At that prior meeting a couple specific problems were

highlighted by Harding officials. At this meeting, Mayor Bartlett said he had received correspondence from Mr Bramnick's legislative assistant indicating that they were working on fixes to the OPRA statute that is generally considered a powerful tool for combating corruption around the State.

#### *Township Website Back in Business*

Chris Allyn, the township IT consultant demonstrated the town's new website. The old site was crashed by hackers and was out of commission for weeks. Google on Harding and you can find it.

#### *Downtown Redevelopment Committee Report*

The Downtown Redevelopment Committee (DRC) was formed to investigate what, if anything, should or can be done to improve downtown New Vernon. "Downtown" is considered to be the stretch of Village Road from the New Vernon Fire Department building, across Millbrook Road to the traffic light at "Four Corners" where Lee's Hill, Glen Alpin, Village and Blue Mill roads come together. Downtown includes the homes and businesses (deli, bank, offices) along that stretch, the Post Office and the DPW recycling center. A big concern is that no business has been successful at the site next to the post office.

To begin their work, the DRC surveyed 14 owners and tenants in the area in person and asked them a dozen open ended questions about parking, lighting, road maintenance, police service, etc.

The key findings were delivered in a report with the highlights shared with the TC and public: All said the "loved living and working in the area". There was concern for certain property or properties that were considered an eyesore. Some expressed the sentiment that there was a disincentive to buy and renovate, that codes were too strict and the Township adversarial. Some thought inspections take too long and that a "fast track" for downtown properties might help. Wastewater management was cited as an issue and some thought lighting needed improvement. No surprise that a lack of traffic and customers was the biggest concern of the businesses. The traffic flow around the post office was considered dangerous and the parking was thought crowded. Diagonal parking was proposed as fix.

Residents were happy with the area except for the eyesore lots and businesses were pleased with the police. No objections about the location of the recycling center. It was pointed out that many business plans for the empty site next to the post office are non-starters unless there were municipal sewers, but that Harding's requirements are more stringent than NJ's.



Committeeman Nick Platt offered several observations: this was the second study of the downtown and that Harding can do nothing or develop a plan and execute it. He pointed out that Harding has no property maintenance ordinance so that in theory one could store a derelict refrigerator on ones porch. He agreed that there were issues with approvals being slow and onerous. Mr Platt recommended uniform signage and down lighting. He suggested that Harding should contact and try to work with the Morris County Economic Development Authority.

A citizen gave his opinion that because the ordinances call for 100 foot separation of water and septic, impossibility in this area given the density, there won't be development unless there is municipal water and sewage. That would be a major capital expense. In response, TC member Regina Egea said that they are trying to separate easily fixable issues from issues that are not fixable because of natural or state imposed limitations.

### **HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION , "TENTATIVE" 2011-12 SCHOOL BUDGET INTRODUCED:**

*Calls for Teacher Salary Freeze and 1.22% Tax Increase.* The Board of Ed introduced its first cut at a budget for the 2011-2012 school year, (ends 6/30/12). The bottom line for taxpayers is that the school portion of your property taxes (about half of the total) would rise 1.22%. Teachers' salaries, by far the largest expense line in the budget, would be frozen under this budget. But a freeze has not been agreed to -- negotiations with the teachers' union are underway.

A Little History... Observant citizens (and readers of Thumbnail) will recall the ruckus during last year's budget cycle when the district had to make some last minute spending cuts to create a balanced the budget. To fix its own budget emergency, the state of NJ cut aid to schools sharply. Harding District lost all its regular state aid -- \$364K. As well, the Feds cut \$2.7K of its aid payment. (Harding still gets \$84K from Washington for Special Ed). Then, after voters defeated the budget in the April, the Harding Township Committee demanded that the school cut its budget enough to keep school property taxes flat.

So faced with this unexpected \$596K revenue shortfall (about 6% on total revenues of about \$9.7MM), the school administration took a number of actions to close the gap. Some of the more important were a salary freeze for the one third of the staff that is non-union; deferred maintenance; did not replace a retiring instructional aide; raised fees for busing; removed "Kickstart Summer Program"; reduced summer library hours; combined 2nd grade class into one for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; eliminated elementary world

language. Less important, except from a public relations standpoint, was elimination of paid yoga instruction for the staff. Teacher salaries were not touched as the teachers' union was in the last year of a 3 year contract that called for a 4.5% increase per year.

This Year Is Different... This coming year (2011-12) two things are very different. First the teachers contract is in negotiation. And second, to control property taxes, the State of NJ has imposed a 2% cap on tax increases. Last year's total school tax levy was \$8.56 MM, so the 2% cap allows an increase of about \$171K. Just two budget items that are difficult to control, Employee Benefits (85% healthcare) and Special Ed Tuition, are forecast to increase by more than \$100K each.

The school is also garners other non-tax revenues from things like busing fees, rental of fields and facilities, state & federal aid, and pre-school tuition. The administration estimates these non-tax sources will be level next year at about \$574K. Therefore the total budget allowable under the 2% cap would be \$9.31mm. Unfortunately, the budget rolled up from bottoms-up "needs" was \$217K greater than the total allowable under the State's 2% cap: \$9,523,000. The school administration termed this budget "conservative".

Because of its dollar value, the most important assumption in the budget is a freeze on teacher salaries. As stated earlier, the union contract is under negotiation now. Two Board of Ed members negotiate with the union reps. Other assumptions in the budget include:

1. Cost of Special Education placements will increase \$121K, or 13.5%, to just over \$1MM. This is what Harding pays for tuition to send 10 children to special schools. Special education spending within the district (about \$340K) is not included in the \$1MM figure.
2. State Extraordinary Aid will increase \$37K to about \$150K. This is money NJ gives to municipalities to help pay for special education. It doesn't come close to covering the actual expense or the increase in item #1.
3. Reduction in Superintendent Salary. The new superintendent's compensation will be at least \$12K less because of a state cap based on the size of the district.
4. Education Jobs Funds - \$12K from Federal sources
5. Non-Tax Revenues remain flat at \$574K. Don't expect to raise fees.
6. No Construction Projects -- all projects deferred.
7. Energy Audit savings -- about \$18K

As in the past the district will control costs by (1) using the Joint Insurance Fund for all non-health insurance; (2) using county cooperative for purchasing supplies and services; and (3) sharing services with Harding Twp and 3 neighboring districts.

To close the \$217K gap between the bottoms-up, “conservative” budget and that required by the 2% cap, the following cuts were made:

1. Reduction of Special Ed Aide – full time with benefits \$47K
2. Two veteran teachers expected to retire - replaced with rookies – saves \$40K
3. Roof Repair cost half expected – annual cost savings lease/purchase - \$55K
4. Reduce Instructional Equipment & Supplies Budget by \$50K to \$80K.
5. Remove two of seven phone lines
6. Remove eBoards and replace with web-hosted solution
7. Reduce substitute teacher pay from \$95/day to \$90/day
8. School counselor to also substitute teach for 15 days per year – saves \$1,350
9. Summer Mailing – distribute this on-line rather hardcopy via U.S. Mail
10. Freeze IT service contract (about 100 PC’s) at current level.
11. Charge 4 aides to cafeteria contract and raise cafeteria prices
12. No new library books
13. Delay adoption of new textbooks
14. Charge for sports participation - \$50 each sport (with a family maximum)

In addition, Charter School Tuition is being budgeted at \$0, down from \$34K.

If voters in April defeat this tentative budget and if the Township Committee requires demands that the school budget is held flat as it did last year, the school administration would have to come up with an additional \$171K in savings. Under that scenario the administration says they would be forced eliminate middle school sports and the annual play, saving \$94K. How the other \$77K in cuts would be found was not specified.

So adding it all up, the “tentative” operating budget is \$9.306 MM of which 94%, or \$8.734 MM, is born by local property taxes while the other 6% comes from those non-property tax sources discussed earlier. In addition, there is annual debt service of about \$500K, bringing total school related (operating budget and debt service) spending to about \$9.81 MM. With a student population of about 425, including those in grades 9-12 at Madison HS for whom Harding pays tuition, the Township pays over \$23.1K to educate each student.

***The Bottom Line for Property Taxes...*** What does this budget imply for the school related portion of your property taxes? A 1.22% increase. The tax levy is up the max 2% allowed under the cap, while the debt service is up 1.1% for a blended increase of 1.95%. However, the taxable property base is estimated to be up almost \$15mm to \$2.065 billion. Though this is a scant 0.73% increase, it means there’s a \$15mm net increase in property to be taxed (new homes, additions and renovations minus properties taken off the tax rolls for preservation and successful property tax appeals).

Since there is net more property to tax, the tax rate doesn't have to increase as much (only 1.22%) as it otherwise would (1.95%) to raise the same amount of revenue.

Here are some examples. On a \$500,000 assessed property, the school tax would be \$2,236, a \$27.02 increase, while on a \$1,000,000 assessed property the school tax would be \$4,473, a \$54.04 increase -- increases of 1.22%. Remember this is just the school related property tax; Harding township and Morris County are in addition.

Historically, the general fund tax levy rose anywhere between 6.4% (2003-04) and 4.3% (2009-10) during that 7-year period. In 2010-11 the levy was up 0.0% while this "tentative" budget calls for a 2% increase. As was stated earlier, this budget is "tentative" because it depends on negotiations with the union which are ongoing. The Board was unable to share any insight as to the tenor of those discussions.

At the public comment section of the Board meeting, one individual expressed concern about the salary freeze. Several encouraged the Board to communicate the substance of the budget so that it would be favorably received by the voters. And one citizen recognized the difficult job that the contract negotiation sub-committee had -- to balance union demands against what taxpayers might demand at the April budget vote after the contract is concluded. This same individual said that in light of the rough economy, prior years' contracts which in hindsight look generous, and President Obama's 2-year freeze on federal employee salaries, it was his opinion that the citizens of Harding were expecting just what the tentative budget called for -- a salary freeze -- and that without a freeze the Board might face another budget crisis where there are then minimal options for cost savings.

***The Civic Association wants to recognize and thank the school administration for the time spent in assisting Thumbnail to prepare this report.***

#### **PLANNING BOARD, January 24, 2011**

Declaration of Appointments by the Township Committee: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Hall pending the election of officers. He announced the appointment to the Board of Nicolas Platt. All Board members present.

2011 Reorganization: Mr. Newlin was elected Chairman, and Ms. Olcott was elected Vice-Chairman; Cindy Phillips was approved as Board Secretary

#### **Applications**

PB-10-08, **Applicant Primrose Partners, LLC**, Block 46, Lots 6, 7.01, 8.03 and 8.04, Brook Drive South. Preliminary and Final Major Subdivision. Action: Amendment of Approval Condition. An extension to 12/31/11 to post guarantee and perfect subdivision was 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: Completeness Waivers; if deemed appropriate, Set Site Inspection. The property was sold at auction and the new owners have agreed to proceed with the subdivision. Mr. Fox noted that the LOI had been extended by the DEP and the tax certification had been submitted. The applicant's attorney stressed that his clients would be sensitive to the character of Harding, their neighbors and the streetscape. The applicant's engineer then gave an overview of the development which would result from combining two lots of just under 30 acres. Lot averaging would be used to create five new lots ranging in size from 3.25 acres to 11.30 acres (where the current main house is situated). The current two access points to the properties will remain, and the current streetscape would be retained by creating a conservation easement along the front of the properties to protect the trees. Some variances would be required for setbacks. Members of the Board were interested to see what a lot conforming (not lot averaged) plan would look like. The engineer stated that such a plan was considered and that he would provide those details to the Board. It was also noted that there were no bridle path issues. The application was carried to the next meeting.

**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 March 4 and April 8, 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. Feb 19, Mar 5, 19, Apr 2, 16, & 30.**

**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	