

MARCH 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

WHO ARE OUR DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS? Let us hear your ideas

The Harding Township Civic Association is now accepting nominations for its Distinguished Citizen award, which will be presented during the annual Memorial Day ceremony following the parade. Nomination should include the individual's name, contact information, and details pertaining to his or her good citizenship and community involvement. Nominations must be received by **April 30, 2010** and can be submitted to Scott Shipley by e-mail at shipleys4@verizon.net, or by postal service to 14 Beech Lane, Morristown, NJ 07960. Nominations can also be submitted to any other Harding Township Civic Association Trustee.

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 12th 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.

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 27th - July 22rd; , 9-3 PM(closed July 4th), for children age 3-12 years of age. Located at the Harding Township School in New Vernon with daily 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 till 3 pm. Science program for grades 1-4 and swimming lessons for children entering Kindergarten and 1st grade. For more info, see www.hardingtowshipdaycamp.com, or email promano59@comcast.net or call 973-326-1775.

FRIENDS OF THE KEMMERER LIBRARY

Art-in-Bloom, is coming! The biannual art show to support the library will be Friday and Saturday, May 6th and 7th, at Church of Christ the King. Friday night's gala is 6-9 p.m.; Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A great community party, with 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. **A CALL TO ARTISTS!** Those artists, who would like to participate and did not participate in past exhibits should email to 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

Evening at the Library: Nancy Dougherty, the library's original architect, and her partner, Sandee Markwith, of Studio 1200 architecture and interior design, present "Reinvent, Re-invigorate and Re-energize Your Home" on Wednesday, March 22, 7-9 p.m. This free design workshop will teach you new trends in design and a fresh perspective on sprucing up your living space. Please RSVP to desk@hardinglibrary.org.

Tribute Cards: Want to send a unique birthday card, birth announcement, anniversary greeting, or in-memory note? Kemmerer Library Tribute Cards feature a beautiful sketch of the library on the front and can be customized inside to fit all occasions. The cards are available for purchase at the library circulation desk; \$6 each, five for \$25.

Adult Yoga: Patricia Kennelly will offer a new general yoga class for all ages at the library starting Thursday, April 14, 4:30-5:30 pm. \$10 suggested donation. Bring a mat and wear comfortable clothing.

Senior Yoga: This gentle yoga class is great for your balance and flexibility. Meets every Monday at 10:45 a.m. with mats and 11:30 for chair work. \$10 suggested donation. Wear comfortable clothes.

Books for Sale at Kirby Hall: Next time you're in the Municipal Building, check out the library's self-service book cart in the front foyer. It carries \$3 hardcovers, \$1 paperbacks and \$1 children's books. You might find a treasure!

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

Singing Babies: Wednesdays at 10 a.m., songs and stories for ages 6 to 24 months.

Pajama Party: Friday, March 11th, at 7 p.m. Children of all ages may attend dressed in their pajamas, bring their favorite stuffed animal and hear fun stories. Their stuffed animal may spend the night at the library. Next day, children can pick up their animal and we will share pictures of all the fun their toys had at their sleep-over.

Lego Block Party: Saturday, March 26th, at noon. Children of all ages may attend and spend the afternoon building Lego masterpieces!

Young Adult Group: Thursday, March 31st, at 4 p.m. Teens in grades 7 and above share their ideas on books to order and other ways to improve the teen section of the library. Snacks will be served.

Adult Book Group: Wednesday, March 30th, at 7:30 p.m. This month's selection is *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein.

Library Survey: Please take two minutes to fill out your brief library survey from the February issue of the *Thumbnail*, or pick up a copy at the library, or fill it out online at www.hardinglibrary.org. We want to hear from our fans as well as our detractors—your views are very valuable to us!

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.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In its efforts to control the Canada geese population in Harding Township, the Wildlife Management Committee is asking residents to help identify locations where Canada geese might be nesting in the Township. Volunteers are ready to assist by treating eggs so that they will not hatch (called addling), using methods approved by the Fish & Wildlife Service.

If you have a body of water on or near your property, or have seen goslings in prior years, it is likely that you will have nests again this year. Harassing birds during the nesting season, or removing eggs from nests is counter productive, because it will encourage the birds to re-nest out of sight, where eggs can't be found or effectively treated.

Early identification of bird pairs and nesting sites does much to assure the process. Migratory geese will leave the area by the end of March. Resident bird pairs will then be more visible, usually claiming an area and keeping other pairs away. If you think your property is a potential nesting site, if you see obvious pairs, would like to learn more about what to look for or to help in spotting or treating nests, please contact the Committee at khmeister3@aol.com, (973) 605 8274 or r.a.shields@att.net, (973) 906-8357.) A property conducive to nesting should be monitored weekly throughout the nesting season, which starts in late March and ends mid May. For help and best results, please call us sooner rather than later. Addling eggs controls the growth of the goose population. Done properly, it is both, humane and effective!

HARDING HUMANE SOLUTIONS

Harding Humane Solutions urges residents to take the simple steps necessary to reduce the likelihood of conflicts with wildlife. Key among these is not to feed wildlife, intentionally or unintentionally. Casually storing untreated, unsecured food garbage outside near your home or on screened porches invites trouble. Please always store garbage in tightly sealed containers and put cans out just before collection, not the night before. Tamper resistant containers are available. Spilled bird seed or easily accessible feeders invite everything from rats and mice to black bears to come for a visit. Especially now through Fall, when bears are most active, birds can get along fine without supplemental feeding. (Seed now on hand can be donated to the Raptor Trust!)

Even when our intention is to draw “just small animals” to a site, their larger predators inevitably follow. A dirty barbecue grill invites bears and others to your home.

The impact of any of these visits on humans ranges from mere nuisance to a traumatic encounter. With a little effort, both can be avoided. Bottom line is whenever wildlife is drawn closer to people, wildlife loses. For more information, email: hardinghumanesolutions@att.net

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](#) 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.

TOWNSHIP NEWS:

“An Evening with the Mayor” February 8, 2011

For many years, the Civic Association has sponsored this event to give citizens a chance to hear from the Chairman and other members of the Township Committee (TC). On a bitter cold night, with a dusting of snow many intrepid residents turned out for an interesting discussion. Mayor Marshall Bartlett started off the event with a run down of over a dozen topics:

Skating – Bartlett complimented Tracy Toribio and Tom Deportere on the “great job” they have been doing keeping Bayne Park in good shape for skating. The temperature has cooperated but the Dept of Public Works (by day) and volunteers (by night) have been flooding the rink and adding a fresh layer of ice daily. He termed the usage “gratifying to us all”. Spring maintenance will be tackled later.

Joint Court -- Harding has signed an agreement with Madison and the two Chathams for a joint court. Harding’s share of expenses is 16.81%. Harding will get the revenue (net of expenses) from Harding written in town. Expected savings “over time” are expected to be \$50-\$80K annually. The shared court will be in Madison, at a new facility

in the Hartley Dodge Memorial. This eliminates a future renovation of Harding's Kirby Hall. . Nic Platt and Regina Egea will be our two representatives on a Joint Court Operating Committee. One "major issue" has been getting Harding's Court Administrator, Barbara Schwab, whose job will be eliminated, vested in her pension plan. Bartlett said this will be done but that details couldn't be discussed.

Open Public Records Act – Bartlett referenced a "big article" to run in the Observer Tribune. Our gadfly, Mr. Jesse Wolosky, admits all he was doing is testing the system and really had no need for requested information. Jon Bramnick our NJ State representative is sponsoring legislation to allow seven days for a town to correct errors before gadflies can go to Government Records Administrator and initiate penalties. Bartlett encouraged the audience to read the article and form your own judgment, but to remember that Harding spent 40 man hours answering Mr. Wolosky's voluminous questions. Bartlett said that Harding does, "of course want to comply fully with OPRA" but admits that the Township made a few minor mistakes such as using white out rather than a black marker for redactions.

Downtown Redevelopment – Committeewoman Regina Egea shared with this audience much of the information from the TC recent meeting that Thumbnail covered in another report. She added that the Downtown Redevelopment will make recommendation in the April/May timeframe and take public comment then.

Construction Office – Committeeman Nic Platt told the audience of the commencement of an efficiency study of the Construction Office (CO). This study and the appointment of Nic Platt as an ombudsman to directly oversee the CO is a response to complaints that Harding is much too slow with inspections and approvals of construction applications and inspections. Recall that fees were raised sharply last year. A key element of a solution to the lengthy turnaround problem may be to work in parallel rather than serially – once zoning approvals are complete, engineer, health and sub-code (fie electrical and plumbing) inspections can proceed, saving as long as months. As important, will be a new system to add transparency to the process. The CO will inform via email BOTH homeowners and contractors along the process. This will mean that contractors can no longer blame delays on the Construction Office.

Bicycles – Mayor Bartlett met recently with the Morris Area Freewheelers, an organization of 750 bikers which rides frequently through Harding, because he was faced with riders coming at him 3 abreast as he drove on Van Beuren. The Freewheelers will tell all its riders about a single file requirement and the they will prepare a memo on driver rules and etiquette vis a vis bicyclists.

Glen Alpin -- “We are still good and stuck”. No good use has been identified but “not for lack of trying”. Bartlett was meeting soon with Jill Hawk, the new Jockey Hollow park superintendent. Federal takeover of the property will be suggested as it has been, unsuccessfully, in the past. Another idea is to use part of Glen Alpin property as a town cemetery as the New Vernon cemetery is full. The Kemble family is buried at Glen Alpin. The Glen Alpin Conservancy and the Harding Land Trust are not in favor and it would likely foul the Green Acres grants which helped purchase the property.

Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees -- Bartlett thanked your Civic Association for promoting the need for volunteers which helped generate a large number of resumes from interested citizens. Last remaining appointments will be considered soon. A raft of good candidates came forward or were suggested. The TC wants “new blood” and volunteers. Most committees have already been reconstituted.

Environmental Commission: The Chair needs to be chosen and the TC has had several discussions already. A strong Chair will be needed to make for an orderly process to keep emotions cool. In 2010, the fertilizer ordinance, which was state mandated and therefore wasn’t something that could be debated at the local level, caused ill feelings. For 2011, lighting and a tree ordinances are potential “hot button items”. Bartlett wants the Environmental Commission to formulate recommendations and then work with Planning Board to keep things rational.

Windy Hill Preserves (aka Von Zuben property) -- A management plan needs to be finalized. Goal is vegetated meadow with wildflowers. This is joint project of the Harding Land Trust and the Town.

Kurz/Glatt Subdivision – This subdivision request will be coming soon to the Planning Board. First issue is whether to grant a “lot size averaging” exception on the 30 acre tract. The plan might call for one large lot of 11-12 acres and say 5 smaller lots of 3-5 acres, which might violate the min lot size for that area. The developer would request approval because the average lot size is over the 5 acre minimum.

Primrose Preserve -- This preservation project is “in abeyance” at the moment. The Trust for Public Land and the Harding Land Trust is trying to find more financing (or get the seller to reduce his asking price) because Morris County came up \$1M short (\$2.45mm, not \$3.45mm). Harding has promised \$700K of the Town’s Green Acres funds. Bartlett wanted to make it clear that Harding is not buying the property, but is simply earmarking State and County allocated funding. Further he said that Harding is “supportive” but “not the “prime mover” of the project. Would the seller come down in price? Bartlett said he didn’t know.

A member of the public asked if the project is “viable”, why not use Township Open Space money to make the deal happen? Bartlett said that the property is not a major viewscape, like Margett’s field, and that the Township is cautious about taking on debt. He also added that the Township has not been asked for any “real money” (as opposed to simply earmarking funds). He called that a “smart idea”.

Budget – Regina Egea said that the current budget has been negatively impacted by the heavy snow fall and that off-setting cuts must be found. Regarding next year, the budget process is still in high gear and the major departments of police and DPW had some “action items” to attend to. The bottom line is that there will almost certainly be a tax increase this coming fiscal year. Current estimate is 2.55%, above the 2% Trenton mandated cap because certain items are excluded from the cap.

Q&A Period.

1. Mayor Bartlett opened up the Q&A session with a short statement and then a request for feedback on the Police Department. The mayor said we have “a fine police department” and that “we are very proud of them”. He also said something that isn’t widely known and that is that day to day police activities are not the responsibility of the TC . The TC sets the PD budget but police operations reports to the Morris County Prosecutors Office. Bartlett pointed out the fact that motor vehicle stops are up 40% year over year from 1200 to 1600, and that there wasn’t a good answer for the upsurge. Committeeman Ned Ward, the TC liason with the Department, commented that the Chief said that the Department is able to meet all obligations without difficulty at the current staffing, He further commented that additions to the force are “very expensive”. Ward reiterated Bartlett’s comment that the TC can’t tell the department how to police. It was thought that the 25 mph speed limit in the center of town was adding considerably to the total and that possibly younger and more aggressive patrolmen could be a factor. Regina Egea recalled that during his budget presentation last year, the Chief said this is part of a “crime prevention strategy” to “create a boarder around town”. She also mentioned that the Township has no quota for tickets and that ticket revenues are not “a budget item” so as to not drive excess stops and ticketing. Input from the public was on both sides of the issue. Some liked the idea of a visible aggressive presence while others thought the town has, or was, getting a reputation as an unfriendly speed trap. And one resident wondered if the metric used by the Dept in the fiscal benchmarking exercise (to compare its costs to other neighboring towns) was a root cause of the upsurge in tickets because. The Dept chose to use a metric that includes the number of ”incidents” as factor in its denominator – thus more incidents would lower the figure and make the Dept appear more cost effective.

2. Other areas for consolidation or shared services? Animal control is a possibility to share with Morristown. The cost at St Hubert's is up 12% perhaps due to financial problems.
3. Citizen highlighted that a recent report in the Star Ledger indicated that Harding's cost to educate one child was the highest in Morris County. A Board of Ed member who was at the meeting countered that Harding is hamstrung because it is a small district and therefore has less students over which to spread non-class room costs. A Committee person asked specifically about sharing the superintendant position. The Board of Ed representative said that the District is obligated by state mandate to have two supervisory positions – 2 certified school administrators. It was also stated that consolidating the district was studied in depth and found that cost savings are minimal.
4. A citizen asked if it's true that the Harding school district could be forced to consolidate with another without putting it to a vote of the public. There was discussion as to the feasibility of that situation occurring and Egea said that Harding is "a jewel" of low taxes and fiscally conservative government. She suggested that neighboring towns would gladly consolidate Harding and its tax base, but stated firmly that Harding's own best interests are served by remaining independent.
5. A citizen asked about the possibility of sharing the relatively high cost of Harding's Health Department. In response, it was made clear that we do share a portion of the services (a nursing contract) with Hanover to good effect. But, because Harding has an unusually high percentage of homes (about 90%) that have septic systems and well water, it is hard to share much more of this department's activity.
6. A member of the public asked the Mayor about a comment he had made that Harding was facing a "tsunami" of property tax appeals. Mayor Bartlett said that there was not a tsunami and that the Township would fight all appeals and that it successfully defends most. A town-wide reassessment costs about \$100K and the next one will be commissioned in 2015.

CITIZEN COMPLAINT NOT 40% INCREASE IN TICKETING REFERRED TO PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

During the Township Committee (TC) meeting of Feb 16, Mayor Marshall Bartlett revealed that a citizen's complaint about the Harding Police Department (PD) had been referred to the Morris County Prosecutor's Office for investigation. Details of the complaint are not public.

This situation was first presented at the “Evening with the Mayor” on Feb 8, 2010, an annual open forum event sponsored by your Harding Township Civic Association. An oblique comment included mention of the Morris County Prosecutor; “we have to approach this topic delicately”, was made by a member of the TC. This comment was then conflated with a discussion about the 40% increase in traffic stops in Harding Township. There was no mention of a specific citizen’s complaint about the PD, only mention of the sharp increase in ticketing and the referral to the County Prosecutor. Both the *Observer Tribune* and your *Thumbnail*, got the story wrong. (See our report on the Evening With the Mayor.)

A story in the *Observer Tribune* from February 10, 2010 provided the catalyst for rather angry and vociferous comments by several citizens at this past Wednesday’s TC meeting (Feb 16). The TC was accused of “attacking the police department” rather than supporting it. A member of the public in emotional and sharply worded comments, questioned the wisdom of taking a simple issue like an increase in ticketing, no matter how sharp, to the County Prosecutor. This individual thought that the matter should have been handled internally with a discussion with Chief of Police Gaffney.

It was at this point that Mayor Marshall Bartlett corrected the misunderstanding by revealing that it was a citizen’s complaint about the PD, NOT the 40% increase in tickets, that was referred to the County Prosecutor.

Mayor Bartlett was adamant that the TC was NOT “attacking” the Police Department. He said, “ We have a fine force of which we can be proud.”

He also reiterated a key point that he had made the prior week -- the PD does not report to the TC for policing matters but rather to the County Prosecutor. The PD reports to the Township only for budgetary matters. However, Mayor Bartlett stressed that the TC is within its rights and has a duty to gather public input and pass that along to the PD. An implication of the dual reporting is that the TC has no choice but to refer serious complaints to the County Prosecutor.

The 40% increase in traffic stops remains controversial with some residents supportive while others find it excessive.

Board of Education Meeting, January 24, 2011

Lisa Werner presented the District Writing Assessment report. The school's faculty had taken part in an in-service on January 17 on the school's new program for writing entitled "The Six Traits of Writing". The six traits of writing consist of Sentence Fluency, Voice, Idea Development, Word Choice, Organization and Convention. The school's new program takes a holistic approach to student writing through writing portfolio maintenance throughout the student's career at Harding School. Writing assessments are standardized; the same writing prompt given at the beginning of the year will be re-administered at the end of the year in order to assess student progress more comprehensively. The Six Traits of Writing program aligns with both State and National Writing Standards. The District Curriculum Council identified the need for a new writing program, and developed this program in response. Dr. Purnell stated that the writing portfolios and assessments will provide more information on student ability than the snapshot glimpse provided by NJ ASK (standardized test). In addition to teacher assessments, students will self-assess their writing using post-it notes to identify, for instance, the number of words they use in a sentence. Mr. Novotny asked how the teachers keep their assessments objective. Ms. Werner's response was that two teachers will grade essays without knowing students' names, and discuss their assessment. Online writing experts are also available to aid in assessment.

The Board of Education then presented their tentative budget for next year.

Editor's note: the comprehensive report on the budget presentation appeared in February Thumbnail, and is available on line at www.hardingcivic.org. The Board of Education will present a public budget hearing on **March 28, 2011**.

Vision Council. The Vision Council is an organization designed to operate as a tool for communication between the public of Harding Township and the Board of Education. Former Mayor Lanzerotti of the general public present questioned the existence of the Vision Council. The council does not seem to be well-advertised and many citizens in Harding are not aware of the Council's mission.

Progress Towards District Goals. The district's goals are available at the Harding Township School's website and include a five-year strategic plan. One can find the school's website via our own Civic Association website: www.hardingcivic.org. The district would like to hold a technology showcase and is investigating how best to accomplish this. Springfield Public Schools has a model program, on which the board will view a presentation on March 7. The new district goal of improving student writing included a teacher-created Wiki page for the new writing curriculum. Dr. Purnell

commended Lisa Werner for “the terrific job” she has done implementing this new program at the Harding Township School. Dr. Purnell also discussed the STEM course implemented at the school, which incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Michael Gervis is currently spearheading a program in hydroponics. Former Mayor Lanzerotti stated his belief that the science program at HTS was too heavily weighted to biology; when, he asked, was the school “coming back to the physical sciences?” Dr. Purnell explained that the STEM program is provided in addition to the regular science classes taught at HTS, and that physical science is still part of the school’s curriculum. Another STEM project the students are working on is the analysis of the most dangerous intersection in Harding, which involves physics.

Hearing of the Public Regarding Agenda Items: The people present were most concerned with communicating the school’s budget to the public effectively. One vehicle suggested was the Civic Association’s website. Dr. Purnell noted that **the Honeywell Alert System is open to the public, and that any citizen can sign up for school alerts. One can limit the alerts to exclude the early-morning school closing notices, and simply be alerted of upcoming Board meetings.** Marianne Feledy noted that the school actually gave money BACK to the town last year, noting that this measure of the school’s fiscal responsibility was not common knowledge in Harding Township. Dick Bruno commented that a group of volunteers could build a mailing list and send out information about the school’s budget plan via the mail rather than electronically. Another member of the public suggested a “Mom’s Outreach” via telephone to interested mothers of students attending HTS.

Reports: Superintendent’s Report: Dr. Purnell thanked the school community for their professionalism during his tenure as superintendent. He briefly discussed a new state bill that would require Board members to submit to a criminal background check.

Madison Board of Education: Mr. Novotny noted that the search for superintendent is down to two candidates. One of the questions being posed to the candidates is “What is your opinion of a shared superintendent between Madison and Harding?” Mr. Novotny stated that the candidates’ responses gave him new perspective on the issue.

Morris County SBA: Mr. Modi stated that the MCSBA met with local legislators, whose general consensus was that no money was coming back to Morris County anytime soon. Assemblymen Bucco did state that he was available to discuss issues. Discussion also included merit pay for teachers and adjustments to the period of time it takes for teachers to achieve tenure.

President's Comments: Jim Minkewicz will be the temporary Superintendent of Harding Township's School District. The Board acknowledged its need to be more proactive in getting this year's budget passed. The Board expressed its appreciation of the dialogue and discussion held tonight. He invited the public to continue to attend Board meetings, noting that discussion is preferable to holding Board meetings to an empty room.

PLANNING BOARD February 28, 2011

Roll Call: Nanette DiTosto, Virginia Moriarty, Peter Saulnier, Joe Schliefer absent.

Announcements/Reports/Presentations

Ms. Olcott reported that the Advisory Review Committee had met on Thursday and came up with a work list which will be discussed with Ms. Kimball. The ARC will also address the Board of Adjustment report from last June. It was also reported that Trenton could change the requirement to update the master plan every six years to every ten years. Mr. Bartlett reported having a discussion with a member of the Harding Land Trust about Primrose. The price has been dropped, but that also means the pro-rata contributions are also lower so additional contributors are needed.

Discussion

The Board then discussed several proposed /township Ordinances.

TC-02-11 (Steep slopes and Dry Wells Requirements): Under this ordinance, requests for waivers for steep slopes go to the Board of Adjustment, and requests for dry well waivers go to the township engineer. The Board agreed that this ordinance complies with the master plan.

TC-03-11 (Grading Permits): This ordinance lays out the requirements for grading permits. In this case, the ordinance is not being changed but merely placed in another section of the code. Approved by the Board.

TC-04-11 (Land Use Ordinance Checklist): This ordinance adds the requirements of (1) electronic copies of plans and (2) marking riparian buffers on the plans to the checklist. Approved by the Board.

Resolution

PB-10-08, **Applicant Primrose Partners, LLC**, Block 46, Lots 6, 7.01, 8.03 and 10.04, Brook Drive South. Second Modification of Approval Condition for Preliminary and Final Major Subdivision. Approved.

Applications

PB-01-11, **Applicant Morris/Post and Rail**, Block 46, Lots 11 and 12, 48-52 Red Gate Road, Amended Preliminary and Final Major Subdivision. Action: Commence Public

Hearing. This subdivision was previously approved; however, applicant now wants to modify lot lines to facilitate an intra-family transfer. Lots still conform, there are no changes to access, and applicant agrees to abide by Mr. Fox's memo which raises some minor issues. Approved.

PB-04-10, **Applicant GHK Realty II/Fawn Hill Associates**, Block 4, Lots 21 and 21.01, 655-665 Spring Valley Road, Preliminary and Final major Subdivision with Variances. Action: Continue Public hearing; Set Site Inspection. At the last meeting, the Board requested that the applicant provide a conforming (conventional) plan so that a comparison could be made to the lot averaged plan that was submitted. The Board reviewed and discussed the conventional plan. Several variances would still be required to preserve the buildings that currently exist. The conclusion seemed to be that any five-lot plan was too intensive with the existing buildings, and that a four-lot plan might be preferable. In any event, the Board agreed to a site inspection without a final plan on March 19th so that the need for variances and the historical significance of the buildings could be assessed.

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

Letter to the Editor: from Lisbeth DeCotiis, Resident and Harding 5th grade teacher

"The Harding Township teachers did not receive a 4.5% salary increase for the 2010-2011 school year as reported in the last issue of the *Thumbnail*. The teachers voluntarily requested that their contract be re-opened last spring, at which time they unanimously voted to contribute 1.5% of their salary to their health benefits. This was done prior to becoming a state law. Therefore, their salary increase was 3.0%. In addition, the teachers voluntarily reduced all their supply orders, saving approximately \$8,000.00 for the district. As far as teacher staff being reduced, in addition to the Elementary teacher that was cut and the Spanish position that reduced to .4, the following teacher cuts were made: Middle School part time Math position and a Special Education position were not filled. This totals 3 full time teachers that were cut from the budget last year."

Don't forget the Harding Township Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony to be held on Monday, May 30, 9:30 AM. The Parade will begin at the Harding Township School parking lot at 9:30 AM, and will end at Memorial Park on Village Road. The Memorial Day ceremony will begin immediately afterwards. Any Township group or organization

interested in participating this year should contact the Parade Chair, Scott Shipley, at 908-406-1402

"Calling all Veterans."

The Harding Township Civic Association would like to invite all Veterans living in Harding Township to march in our Memorial Day Parade. If you are interested, please contact the Parade Chair, Scott Shipley by phone at 908-406-1402 or by email at shipleys4@verizon.net.

Civic Association News and Announcements

Civic Association: The DEADLINE FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL are April 8 and May 6 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***, or the Harding Township Civic Association, PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976. The Civic Association website, www.hardingcivic.org, is updated frequently; we post events and announcements sent to our e-mail address: 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. Mar 19, Apr 2, 16, & 30, May 14 and May 28.**

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)

CLARIFICATION NOTE: Tracy Toribio has requested a clarification regarding disposal of ***Computers, monitors, laptops and televisions***. As of January 1, 2011, these items **cannot** be put into household trash. However, they **can** be brought to the Harding Twp DPW recycling center at the regular hours of operation. 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 st Monday)	7:30 PM
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday)Chrst KingCh	11 AM
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	7:30 PM
Hist Preservtion Comm (1stThursday)	7:30 PM
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM
Board of Education (1st and 3rd Monday)	7:30 PM
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM
Township Committee(3 rd Wed)	7:30 PM
Harding Open Space (2 nd Wed)	7:30 PM
Harding Twp Civic Association (2 nd Wed)	7:30 PM
Municipal Court- has merged with Madison NJ Court	