

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Fire Department Auction Saturday, September 25th

The New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department will hold their 58th Annual Auction on **Saturday, September 24th** at the Firehouse on Village Road at 9:00 AM sharp, rain or shine. Parking opens 6:30 am, Grounds open 7AM. Auction preview 8AM. Reserved seats 7 AM. The Harding Township Committee announced that the **annual curbside clean-up** will commence on **Monday September 26th**. Materials that will **not** be collected are building material, garbage, stones, concrete, soil, brush, yard debris, toxic chemicals, propane bottles and tanks, 55 gallon drums (empty or full), oil tanks and oil based paints. Lawnmowers and other gasoline-powered equipment must have the gas and oil drained. Hot water heaters and water conditioners must be drained. Pipes and single pieces of lumber must be cut or bent into sections four (4) feet or less in length. Latex paints must be opened and completely dried out. Please do not leave items in front of property sooner than ten (10) days before the collection date. Materials that will not be collected, but are acceptable at the recycling center are: all standard recyclables: newspaper, cardboard, glass, aluminum, plastics), barbeque size propane tanks, tires, computers and related electronic devices. Any questions please call Tracy Toribio, at the Harding Township dept of Public Works, 973-267-2448.

From the editor: the big news as of press-time, Sunday morning September 4, 2011, is that your editor and many other residents have no electric power. If you think news items or announcements are missing, it might be due to this problem. On Sept. 3, the Township committee held a special meeting to discuss this situation, but the bottom line was that power would be restored at some unspecified future time, and that JCPL was aware and working to correct the problem. (It did seem curious that electric outages within Harding Township in the past seemed to have been resolved more quickly, even when they were regionally widespread, e.g., the winter of 1977/78.) Hopefully, by the day you receive Thumbnail, all of us have our electricity/water/sewer operative.

The Glen Alpin Conservancy would like to announce its annual membership meeting and an open house, on **Sunday, September 18th**. The meeting will be held at Glen Alpin, 685 Mount Kemble Avenue, Harding Township, NJ. At 1:30 pm we will have a brief annual meeting for our members. From 2-4 pm, we will host an open house, free to the public. Come see our newest donation, a parlor organ! Recently the Conservancy was given an electric parlor organ that will be the topic of a talk at 3 pm by Troy Joseph Simmons, M.A., C.C., K.M. who is the Architectural Historian of the Archdiocese of Newark and is a Drew University Historic Preservation Faculty member.

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 2011

The Glen Alpin Conservancy works toward the rehabilitation, preservation and public enjoyment of the historic house and grounds at Glen Alpin, owned by the Township of Harding and the Harding Land Trust, encompassing over nine and a half acres at the corner of Mount Kemble Avenue and Tempe Wick Road. Although free to the public, donations will be received gratefully.

THE LIBRARY

Regular hours are back! Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 10 am to 5 pm; Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm; Saturday: 10 am to 2 pm.

Evening at the Library: Come hear attorney and Harding resident Dev Modi speak on a subject everyone cares about: "How to choose a good and honest financial planner, OR How NOT to Get Madoffed!" Modi works in the attorney general's office and spends his days chasing bad apples after people have been victimized. He will share ways to select well from the beginning. Wednesday, October 19th, 7 pm. To RSVP, please email desk@hardinglibrary.org.

Pajama Storytime: Friday, September 23rd, 6 pm. Children come to the library dressed in pajamas for bedtime stories and songs, and are encouraged to bring a stuffed toy. If they wish, they may leave their toy overnight at the library to have a "toy sleepover" and pick up the toy the next day.

Game Night: Wednesday, October 5th, 7 pm. Children of all ages welcome to play board games; snacks will be served.

Teen Advisory Group: For kids in grades 6 and up to talk about books and share ideas to improve the library's teen offerings. Next two meetings are Thursday, September 15th, and Thursday, October 13th, both 7 pm. Snacks will be served.

Children's Storytime schedule starts week of September 11th:

- Rhyme Time: Wednesdays, 10:30 am, for babies 4 to 12 months old. 45 minutes of play, 15 minutes of circle time.
- Toddler Time: Tuesdays, 10:30 am, for children 1-4 years old. Listen to storybooks, flannel board stories and finger plays. Make theme-related crafts.
- Book Buddies: Wednesdays, 3:30 pm, for children in grades K-3. Listen to and read stories to each other and occasional special guests, discuss books, and make theme-related crafts.

Save the Date: The Friends of the Kemmerer Library will sponsor a Holiday House Tour on Thursday, December 8, a celebration of beautiful local holiday decorating. Event begins with brunch from 9-11 am at Springbrook Country Club of Morristown, followed by the tour from 11-3. For more information or to add your home to the tour, call 973-326-9396 or 973-539-0149

Senior Yoga: M.J. Turnbull resumes her two senior yoga classes on Mondays starting September 12th. Mat work begins at 10:45 am, and gentle seated yoga begins at 11:30 am. \$10 suggested donation as before.

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 2011

Please come to the library to view our display cases, which now celebrate the Harding Land Trust's 20th anniversary. The display, in place for the next three months, will highlight some of the 300 acres of open space in Harding Township the land trust has worked to preserve. If you or a group with which you are affiliated wishes to prepare a future exhibit for the display cases, please contact Alice Condon at 973-644-3122.

Morristown History Buffs: Do you have an extra copy in excellent shape of *Morristown's Forgotten Past: The Gilded Age 1890-1929*, by John W. Rae, Jr. (published 1980), that you would like to donate to the library? Ours needs to be replaced.

American Red Cross Blood Drive, at the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon, sponsored in memory of Mary Van Kirk, will be held on **Thursday, September 27** between 2PM and 8PM in Fellowship Hall at the church, located at 2 Lee's Hill Road in New Vernon. Walk-ins are welcome. Appointments are encouraged and may be made by logging on to: redcrossblood.org and entering sponsor code: 15297. For more information, please contact Eileen McDonald at (973) 255-8556.

The Friends of the Kemmerer Harding Township Library are holding their annual Festival of Music on the grounds of the Library on **Sunday, October 2** with a rain date of Sunday, October 9th. Children's entertainer, balloon sculpture, face painting and a variety of other activities and refreshments begin at 3pm. From 4pm to 6pm, a musical group will be playing songs from the 60s and 70s, and wine and cheese will be served all afternoon. All are welcome. For tickets and information, call Don Vellekamp at 973-903-2122 or just show up on Sunday and pay at the door! Admission fees are \$15 per person and \$30 per family. Come join the fun!

Correction from the Summer Thumbnail: *"The Citizen of the Year Award" should have included the New Vernon Garden Club in the list of organizations that enhance the quality of life in Harding Township.* For the past 25 years, 100+ Harding women in the Club have served the community on countless projects, including maintaining all of our parks, raising funds, decorating the town for the holidays, interfacing with many of the other organizations on state and local levels, and recently completing the new Kemmerer Library landscaping.

From the Civic Association:

You may have noticed in the last year a number of headings for various boards, commissions, and committees in the Thumbnail followed by "No report this month". That's because the Civic Association does not have enough volunteers to cover all of the municipal meetings that occur in the course of the month. Civic Association reporters provide a perspective of the meeting that is

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 2011

not necessarily captured in the meeting minutes. If you have an interest in reporting on Open Space, Historic Preservation or the School Board we need you.

If you want us to continue to provide Thumbnail reports and host events such as the Memorial Day Parade and Meet the Candidates Night we need your help. Please contact Barbara Brennan at 973-476-6888 or send an e-mail to Barbara.Brennan@preludeinc.com for more information or if you would like to join us. Our next meeting is October 3 at 7:30 PM, in the Township Kirby Hall.

HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH NEWS:

Clinics to distribute the **annual influenza vaccine**, flu shots, are planned for the beginning of October pending the receipt of our vaccine. Please **call** our **Health Department Information Line** for confirmation of the exact dates. The number for the Information Line is 973-267-8000, extension 1962. The vaccines are available free of charge to Harding Township residents 65 years of age or older, first aid and fire department members, and volunteers to township boards and commissions.

Harding Township and Morris Township will sponsor a **rabies vaccination** clinic on **Saturday, November 5**, 2011 from 10:00 AM to noon at the Woodland Firehouse, 20 Dwyer Lane, Morris Township. Dwyer Lane goes between South Street and Woodland Avenue. The immunization clinic is open to dogs and cats only. Animals must be on leash or in a carrier.

HARDING ALLIANCE AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE The mission of Harding Alliance is to provide education and resources to promote healthy decision-making and to avoid substance abuse and risky behaviors. The fall season meeting is **Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 8:45 AM** in the Guidance Office of Harding Township School. We will be planning *Red Ribbon* (substance abuse awareness) Week, scheduled for the last week of October. We are also seeking a few good people interesting in facilitating parent programming. Please check our website and blog frequently to keep up with our news. The website is <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:

Township Committee Meeting August 17, 2011

All TC members in attendance.

New Super – The new superintendent of Harding Schools, Alex Anemone, was introduced to the sparse crowd. Previously he was employed by the Montclair public school system. He lives in Caldwell with his wife and four children. He said he was very happy to be with Harding schools, considered to be the “pre-eminent K-8 school in the state”. He also took the opportunity to say that he recently received the state test scores which showed that Harding’s 32 eighth graders were 100% proficient or advanced proficient in math, language arts, science and algebra.

New Canvassing and Soliciting Ordinance Introduced. An amendment to existing ordinance on this topic was introduced. The change will remove mayoral discretion from the approval process – something that was thought to have First Amendment issues. The mayor can still deny

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 2011

a permit but only if the applicant fails a criminal background check. FYI, canvassers must have a permit (an official looking document but are only required to show it upon request – they don't have to display it on a lanyard. Public hearing on this change will take place at Sept 21 TC meeting.

Building Height Ordinance Modification Introduced. At the request of the Board of Adjustment, the Planning Board chair, Alf Newlin, presented a modification to Harding's building height ordinance. Three items are included – (1) tall spires but be for religious buildings, (2) ordinance will now address commercial and residential structures separately and (3) new barns, if a true working barn, can be as tall as 35 feet. This change was well researched and vetted by the Boards according to TC person Platt. In general buildings in HT are restricted to 2.5 stories in height.

Hearing Persons Present

Citizen Judy Molloy raised the issue of Harding's website. She said that the level of information was poor and cited a few examples and said she would share others offline. (1) The work being done on the Downtown is not reflected in the site; (2) there is not a full discussion of Township priorities (compared to an exemplary site of Chatham Boro which includes a mission stmt, annual report and goals & steps taken section); (3) no link to the Civic Association; (4) Municipal Court section is still listed as "under construction (Court was recently merged with Madison); (5) no Forms library (Summit has a nice one); (6) fees are not listed on the site. The TC said that they would look at these other sites and see how Harding's can be improved.

Ms Molloy also asked for clarification about TC members Platt and Ward being copied on Construction Department applications. Concern was raised that this material is private and should stay only within the Construction Department. Mr Platt assured those present that in their role as ombudsmen, they only were concerned with workflow (timely process on the application) not the substance of the application itself. Background: The ombudsman role was created over the last year to streamline the application process which often involved delays and unfair finger-pointing by contractors at Harding Construction personnel. Now applications are time stamped and all parties, especially including contractors and homeowners are notified where an application stands.

Mike Meade politely asked the TC to look into if the ordinance relating to use of township parks has any penalties if say, a portable toilet is not removed in a timely manner. The TC will look into this.

Tax Appeal Settlement. HT settled with homeowner Strong at 17 Featherbed Lane.

Assessment was reduced for 2010 and 2011 resulting in a step down in property taxes of \$2895 and \$5920 respectively. The settlement was termed "very good" and "reflected fair market value".

Best Practices Checklist – 90% Score. The TC approved the submission to the State of its checklist for the Consolidated Municipal Tax Relief Act funding. A municipality's score on this

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 2011

checklist determines the last 5% of state aid that will be received. Harding doesn't any aid so it's score is irrelevant to finances but it's an indication of good (or bad) governance. Harding scored itself 45 of 50 or 90%. The questions where Harding answered "No" were:

(1) Has your municipality adopted a pay-to-play ordinance?

(2) Does your municipality require its elected official to attend basic courses on responsibilities and obligations?

(3) Are contracts for services over the pay-to-play threshold of \$17,500 awarded using bids or a fair and open process? Comment: "Pay-to-play ordinance not in place."

(4) Is your police department accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies or have senior officers had advanced training through professional agencies/academies?

(5) Has your municipality held or scheduled a "Joint Yearly Open Public Meeting" between the local school board(s) and the governing body to discuss community needs, shared services and the school and municipal budgets?

Holiday Tree – Where to Put it? The Parks Advisory Committee told the TC that evergreen tree in Bayne Park that has been decorated for the holidays is dying. It will be removed and a new tree large tree approximately 60 feet tall will be planted. The TC was asked if they wanted to have it planted on the grounds in front of Kirby Hall (the municipal building). In this way, the power line that needs to be run to the tree lighting could also serve to light the currently unlit American flag. The TC decided not to accept the tree on the town hall grounds for fear that it would ultimately grow too large and would not be in keeping with the landscape plan. Likely the tree will be planted in new location in Bayne Park as the location of the current dying tree is problematic.

JULY 20 Township committee meeting. In other news during the summer, the Township Committee unanimously agreed to commit more than \$500,000 of the township's locally collected open space money toward the purchase of Phase 1 of the Primrose property open space preserve.

That means that, for the Phase 1 purchase, a total of \$4.1 million will be collected from a variety of sources and a total of 45 acres located off of Brook Drive South will be purchased and preserved. The landowner had Planning Board approval to construct 13 homes on the property. Now, hopefully, that will not occur, and the 45 acres will be preserved for passive, and potentially active recreation. The developer, Kevin Duffy and his partner, Brian Fahey, had assembled the large open space parcel that was once held by several owners and entities.

Contingent upon receiving future Morris County open space funding, the township may also opt to purchase "Phase II", which will include another 77 acres. The asking price for that portion is \$5 million, and an application for funding by the Morris County Open Space Trust Fund has already been submitted. Two appraisals have estimated the total property- 122 acres in total-

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 2011

at \$9.6 million, but the landowner has agreed to drop the price by \$400,000 to \$9.1 million for all 122 acres.

Discussion at the meeting July 20 included issue that if the Township Committee did not agree to use township funds for the Phase I purchase, that up to \$3 million in county and state Green Acres money could be lost. The 122-acre parcel, which is hidden from the roadway, abuts Route 287 and Brook Drive South, is a watershed for two streams, and contains open fields, and forests, both high and low.

This property also abuts Barretts Athletic Field.

Township committee Marshall Bartlett has said that the consummation of the deal is dependent upon receiving additional Morris County open space funding.

For Phase 1, the Harding Land Trust, via Green Acres funding, will be chipping in \$320,000. The township, through Green Acres funding it has received, will be contributing \$700,000. Locally collected Harding open space funding will be contributed, to the tune of \$547,796. The Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority will chip in \$250,000. The Trust for Public Land will contribute \$50,000 and Morris County, via open space grants, will contribute more than \$2.2 million. Initial hesitancy on the part of the Township committee to agree to this deal was because of the high price tag.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT,

PLANNING BOARD

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION,

Harding School, Board,

Harding Open Space Trust, no reports this month

Civic Association News and Announcements

Civic Association: The DEADLINE FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL are OCTOBER 7 and NOVEMBER 11. NOTE: The November issue will be out late in that month; if you have announcements for early December, send in by Nov. 11, please. 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 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 **Sat.: 9AM to noon., Sept. 17, Oct 8, 22; Nov 5, 19; Dec 3, 17.**

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

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 2011

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: regarding 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.**

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 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)	7:30 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	