

# Harding Township Civic Association

## THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

OCTOBER 2011

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

**Soup Contest:** The chill is in the air, and the leaves are dropping. So, it's time again for the Auxiliary- sponsored "Home-made Soup Contest"

Date: **Sunday, October 23** Time: 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Place: Fire House, Village Road

Cost: \$6.00 for soup, bread, coffee

Homemade desserts and soda will be available for sale. Vote for your favorite soup. Prizes will be awarded. If you would like to enter a soup in the contest, admission is free. Please call Pat O'Reilly (973 301-2151) or Connie Cherrillo (973-539-9383) to let us know you will be entering a soup.

**The Annual Children's Halloween Parade** will be held **Sunday, October 30th at 5PM** at the firehouse on Village Road. All town residents are invited. There will be refreshments and fun for everyone. Prizes will be awarded!

**THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** invites you to a special showing of the award winning 75 minute documentary film, "**Living with New Jersey Black Bears**" on **Thursday October 27, 2011 at 5PM in the Municipal Building, Kirby Hall**. This film was released by the DEP in June, and includes a special 15 minute segment uniquely devoted to the issue of black bears in New Jersey. The end result is a comprehensive and up-to-date educational film to help the public better understand and co-exist with black bears. Bears benefit because people can learn how to avoid things that might result in their destruction. People benefit as they learn to appreciate this remarkable creature that is a symbol of a healthy and balanced environment.

**INCREASED DEER ACTIVITY** With the days getting shorter and white-tail deer entering their annual rut, motorists should be especially alert while driving, to avoid collisions with the animals. While deer may cross roads at any time, they are most active during the dawn and dusk hours. If you spot a deer, slow down and pay attention to sudden movement. If the deer does not move, don't go around it. Wait until the road is clear. And if you spot one deer, be alert for additional ones. If you are traveling after dark, use high beams where there is no oncoming traffic. High beams will illuminate the eyes of the deer on or near roads and provide better reaction time for a motorist. If it appears you are going to collide with a deer, don't swerve to avoid impact. The animal, being totally unpredictable, may counter-maneuver. Brake firmly but stay in your lane. Fatalities are more likely, when a driver swerves to avoid a deer and instead, collides with oncoming traffic or a permanent structure alongside the road. Report any deer-vehicle collision to a local law enforcement agency immediately. The Harding Twp. Police Department number is 973-455-0500.

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Harding Township's white tail deer population has been exposed to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) a midge borne viral infection that does not affect humans or other animals. There has been a sudden die off recently. The deer carcass is not dangerous, nor is EHD contagious except to other deer. If you discover the carcass before it begins to decompose, you should drag it to the side of the road and notify the Harding Township Police so the carcass can be removed. Given the mild weather, past experience shows that by allowing natural organisms to work, decomposition takes about 3 days.

Since July 1, the Morris county Co-op contract is with Space Farms (973-875-3223). They will also pick up carcasses from private residences for a \$100 fee charged to the homeowner. Also, Alco (973) 540-9944 and Deer Carcass Removal Services (800) 509-1420 will pick up from private residences for a fee.

**The Harding Township Historical Society** will be presenting the **28th Annual Antique Show and Sale** on **Saturday, November 5th (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Sunday, November 6th (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.)** at the historic Tunis-Ellicks House. Admission is \$6.00 per person. The Preview Party featuring historic wines and delicious hors d'oeuvres will held on **Friday evening, November 4th** from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., \$35.00 per person. All welcome. Dr. David Cowell, Lovely Living Antiques, will once again be managing the show and he has arranged a show of interest to all featuring 25 dealers, with many familiar faces returning this year, and a few new dealers will also be exhibiting. The show will feature furniture, china, pottery, silver, rugs, jewelry and other interesting old, vintage items. Please join us for an interesting show.

**HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH FLU CLINICS:** The Harding Township Health Department will hold a influenza clinic on **Tuesday, October 18, 2011**, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The flu shots are available free of charge to Harding Township residents who are at least 65 years old and residents who are at high risk for flu due to chronic disease as defined by the CDC criteria. High-risk residents must provide a note from their doctor authorizing the vaccine before the Health Department can administer the shot. The Health Department cannot give the flu vaccine to persons under 18 years of age. Parents who wish to have their children vaccinated should contact their pediatrician.

For future clinic information, please call the **Flu Hotline at 973/267-8000, extension 1962.**

**PNEUMONIA VACCINATION:**

Residents, 65 years and older, who wish the pneumonia vaccine must call the Health Department at 973/267-8000, extension 1974 to make an appointment.

**RABIES CLINIC:**

Harding Township, in cooperation with the New Jersey State Department of Health and the Morris Township Health Department, will again offer a FREE Rabies Vaccine inoculation for cats and

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dogs at the Woodland Firehouse, 20 Dwyer Lane, Morris Township, NJ on **Saturday, November 5, 2011**, from 10:00 am to 12 noon. Dwyer Lane goes between South Street and Woodland Avenue. Dogs whose rabies vaccination expires before October 31, 2012, must receive a booster vaccination before a license can be issued in 2012. Please make sure all dogs are on a leash and cats are in a carrier.

### **THE KEMMERER LIBRARY**

**Pajama Storytime: Friday, October 21st**, 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 sleepover and pick it up the next day.

**Halloween Party: Wednesday, October 26th**, 3:30 pm, for children ages 3 and older. Come dressed in costume and hear spooky stories, play games, and make a Halloween craft.

**Game Night: Wednesday, November 2nd**, 7 pm. Children of all ages invited to play board games; snacks will be served.

**Fancy Nancy Tea Party: Saturday, November 5th, noon**, for children aged 5 to 8 ; for stories, snacks and crafts.

**Teen Advisory Group: Thursday, October 13th**, 7 pm. Kids in grades 6 and up can talk about books and share ideas to improve the library's teen offerings. Snacks served.

**Election Day Book Sale, Tuesday November 8:** Support the library and choose from a huge selection of gently used, awesome fiction and nonfiction books for adults and children at the library's annual sale in Kirby Hall while the polls are open. **Election Day Food Drive:** We in Harding are blessed in so many ways, but only 44 miles away in the Bronx, there is a school called PS/MS 20 whose students all live at or below the poverty line and whose only substantial meal of the day is their school lunch. The library is supporting the efforts of a nationwide charity, Blessings in a Backpack, and local resident Lauri Herman, to run an Election Day food drive for the children of PS/MS 20. Donations of nonperishable food will be accepted at the library from 10 am to 5 pm, and all of it will go directly to these children. See our website at [hardinglibrary.org](http://hardinglibrary.org) for more information about what we can and cannot accept, or contact Lauri at 908-660-4524 or 201-264-8488.

**Evening at the Library:** Come meet former New York Giants star center **Bart Oates** on **Wednesday, November 16**, 7 pm. Bart will discuss the recent progress to try to make football safer at all levels of the game, including health initiatives for current and former NFL players. To RSVP, please email [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org).

**Holiday House Tour:** 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 Contry Club of Morristown, followed by the tour from 11-3. To be a tour guide, call 973-326-9396 or 973-539-0149. Holiday House Tour

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Boutique: Help the library, see the beautiful work of our House Tour vendors on display at the library from 9 am to 3 pm on Thurs, Dec. 8, and get some of your holiday gift shopping done.

**Senior Yoga:** M.J. Turnbull's classes run every Monday morning. Mat work begins at 10:45 am, and gentle seated yoga begins at 11:30 am. \$10 suggested donation.

**Children's Storytime** schedule: • Rhyme Time: Thursdays, 10:30 am, for babies 4 to 24 months old. • Toddler Time: Tuesdays, 10:30 am, and Thursdays, 1 pm. for children 2-4 years old. Listen to storybooks, flannel board stories and finger plays. Make theme-related crafts. • After-School Program: Wednesdays, 3:30 pm, for children in grades K-3; read stories.

**HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL PTO** would like to announce its 2011 annual **Holiday Bazaar**. This year we've added an **exclusive "kid-free" shopping** event on **Friday, Dec. 2, 6-9 pm. Saturday, Dec. 3; Pancake Breakfast** 'til noon in the school cafeteria; with extended shopping hours from **9am -5pm. Choose from a wide variety of gifts** for the home, unique children's gifts, fabulous clothing, silks, jewelry, accessories, art, bath & beauty products, toys and more. The Bazaar is hosted at Harding Township School, 34 Lee's Hill Road, New Vernon, NJ. Mark your calendars and come out and support our school! For more information, please contact Suzanne McGratty at either 201-919-6799 or [suzanne.mcgratty@gmail.com](mailto:suzanne.mcgratty@gmail.com).

### From the Civic Association:

*For those of you who were without cable, internet, or phones* after the hurricane and have Comcast as your provider, you need to call (866) 728-1776. Follow the prompts to the billing department. When you get to a representative tell them that you were without service and would like a refund for the time the service was down. The representative will ask you when your service went down and when it was restored (although the rep already has that info) and will give you a credit toward next month's bill. It did not appear that the credit would be automatic, so you should call.

**THE CIVIC ASSN ANNUAL DUES SOLICITATION.** Help Us Keep Our Citizens Informed and Engaged! Since the 1970's, broad based citizen support has allowed the all-volunteer Harding Township Civic Association to continue its mission to foster an informed, engaged and patriotic citizenry. Please renew your \$35 membership – additional contributions are welcome. This year the Civic Association is in need of volunteers. We need your help to continue to provide the community with news and events such as the Memorial Day Parade. Starting in November we meet the third Tuesday of the month at Kirby Hall, at 7:30 PM. Next meetings are Nov. 20, Dec 20, and Jan 17. If you'd like more information call 973-476-6888 or send an e-mail to [BarbaraJBrennan@hotmail.com](mailto:BarbaraJBrennan@hotmail.com).

These are the activities of your Harding Township Civic Association:

**Thumbnail of Civic Affairs** – The source of non-partisan, unbiased reports on the activities of township government and announcements of community events.

**Harding On-Line** – Our website at [www.hardingcivic.org](http://www.hardingcivic.org), is now the "go to" source for news and events in Harding. Over 500 residents have signed up to receive e-mails about news and events that occur between issues of the Thumbnail.

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**Memorial Day Parade** – We are the sponsor and organizer of this old fashioned, small town display of patriotism. We coordinate an essay contest for school age children, the winners of which read their work at the parade ceremony and receive a savings bond prize.

**Directory of Community Services** - A handy guide to all government committees, commissions and boards as well as other community service organizations. Mailed annually, free of charge, to every family in town.

**“An Evening with the Mayor” and “Meet the Candidates Night”** – These events give Harding’s citizens an opportunity for dialogue with our Mayor and a chance to interact with the candidates for Township Committee.

**New Resident Welcome Package** – We give every new resident a package welcoming them to our wonderful community and providing them with useful information. Your contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

**HARDING ALLIANCE AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE** 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, health and school professionals. During Red Ribbon Week (October 24 to 28) we are planning **book discussion groups** facilitated by experienced therapists from Grace Counseling Center. We have chosen *Girls Will Be Girls*, *Raising Confident and Courageous Daughters*, and *Raising Cain*, *Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*. Free copies are available at Harding Township School Middle and Lower School Office, and the Kemmerer Library, for those interested in attending either discussion. The book discussion groups are scheduled as follows: **Girls Will Be Girls: Tuesday, October 25**, 8:30 AM Harding Township School; 7:30 PM Kemmerer Library. **Raising Cain: Thursday, October 27**, 8:30 AM Harding Township School; 7:30 PM Kemmerer Library. Please contact Judy Malloy, Chairperson, at [Judymotown@gmail.com](mailto:Judymotown@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Register for updates to our new [website](https://sites.google.com/site/hardingalliance/) at <https://sites.google.com/site/hardingalliance/>; or blog at <http://hardingalliance.blogspot.com/>. Our next meeting is scheduled for **January 18, 2012 at 8:30 AM** in the Guidance Office of Harding Township School.

### **TOWNSHIP NEWS:**

**Township Committee Meeting – September 21, 2011;** Attendance: All, except Ned Ward

**Volunteer Recognition:** The New Vernon First Aid Squad, New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department, Green Village First Aid Squad and the Green Village Fire Department were all officially recognized by the TC with a framed citation for their “personal sacrifice of time energy and personal safety” during Hurricane Irene. It was stated that they are “essential to the very fabric of Harding Township”.

**Ordinances Adopted.** Two ordinances were adopted that had previously been discussed extensively – one on Canvassing and Soliciting and the other on Building Heights.

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Hearing Persons Present. – A citizen asked any action or research had been done regarding unauthorized use of HT parks. This issue had been raised at prior meeting because a bicycle group had used Bayne Park without a permit and it was not clear if HT could assess fine or penalty. TC admitted that no action or research had been taken.

### Resolutions Passed:

1. September Bill List
2. Extension of Property Tax Payment Grace Period...due to Hurricane Irene
3. Accelerated Tax Lien Sale...approved (as in prior years); to be used if needed.
4. NJDOT Grant Application – for funds to resurface Featherbed Lane and upgrade Village Rd Crosswalk (paint and lights).
5. Primrose Preserve – conditional approval of Ph 1 acquisition
6. Accept Resignation of Deputy Clerk (Amanda Macchia) -- “with deep regret”; Macchia got full clerk job in a community closer to home.

**Endorsed NJDOT’s Revised Plan to replace Rt 202 Bridge.** At a meeting between the business owners on Rt 202 and the DOT a new, much improved plan to replace the dangerously aging bridge at the Rt202 just north of the Old Mill Inn was revealed. The plan will reduce the duration of the closer and detour from about one month to about 7 days of full closure. The plan is more costly as it uses a pre-fabricated bridge. There will be minimal disturbance to the stream. The business people in attendance and TC members Lanzerotti and Bartlett all liked the plan. The construction is planned for August of 2012, but this timeframe is considered aggressive to get the necessary funding and approvals. If it slips, the project will be done in November of 2012. Waterman Meadows Property Management Plan - Approved

A maintenance plan for this preserved property (Spring Valley Road) was presented by a representative of the Harding Land Trust and approved by the TC. This nearly 20 acre property is jointly owned by HT (22%) and the Harding Land Trust (78%). It was subject of a bargain purchase (\$500K) in 2001. The maintenance plan involved mowing the perimeter annually and the entire property every other year to keep out invasive plant species. Cost is estimated at \$1070, \$550 and \$1500 for 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. The cost is split between HT and HLT according to their ownership share.

### Glen Alpin Maintenance Plan – Tabled for A Month.

A maintenance plan for just the “Kemble Tract” (ie. the front 6.4 acres, not the 3 acres with the house) was presented by a representative of the Harding Land Trust and but NOT approved by the TC. This property is owned 14% by the HLT and 86% by HT. The plan involves maintenance of the field (\$1500 per year in 2012 and 2013), the driveway (\$1150 per year for 2012 and 2013) and trees (\$1500 in 2012). Because of the original agreement, most of these costs are born by HT not the HLT. Even though what was presented to the TC was a maintenance plan, not a contract, the TC tabled the approval for another month for legal review.

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### **CPAC Annual Report**

The Park Commission made its' annual report. CPAC has oversight for 4 parks – Show Grounds (Sand Spring Lane), Bayne Park, Memorial Park (opposite NV Fire Dept) and Barrett Field. The 10 individuals of CPAC meets monthly for “passionate” exchange of ideas which result in recommendations to the TC. CPAC is concerned with putting teeth (fine and penalty) in the permitted use ordinances (see comment above). And RFP for lawn maintenance was let to Cutting Edge Inc. and \$3300 will be used upgrade Memorial Park.

### **Environmental Commission Recommendation -- Remove Street Lights.**

In response to a request from the TC, the EC researched the street lighting in Harding. Their report, which recommends removing all lights except those at intersections is in a separate report in Thumbnail. This will result in annual savings of about \$6000. Most of the targeted lights are near the Chatham border. A map showing the location of the lights can be found at our website – [www.HardingOnline.org](http://www.HardingOnline.org).

### **Mid-Year Budget Review – Revenue and Outlays Tracking Well**

Regina Egea, of the finance sub-committee of the TC, presented a 6 month review of the budget. As of 6 months, actual revenues are tracking a bit ahead of plan (52% of annual revenues have been collected) and expenses are in good shape as well. Tax appeals this year (13 appeals) are up sharply from 2010 (7 appeals). In 2009 there were nine. To make budgeting easier, the finance committee is considering setting up a reserve to cover settlements (and defense costs) in the amount of about \$300K. Our municipal court, which is located and shared with Madison, has found another cost saving idea – using auxiliary police for security. Auxiliary cost about on third of uniformed police. Total cost was \$50K.

**Emergency Management Update-** Emergency Mgmt has become a big topic in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. An Emergency Mgmt Committee (EMC) has been formed under the Police Chief Gaffney. Several citizens have volunteered to join the committee. The EMC will examine and develop emergency procedures working with the police department fire departments and DPW. The EMC will look at what went wrong and right during Irene. The TC has reached out to JCP&L, NJ American Water and Morris County.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION PROPOSES REMOVING 65 STREET LIGHTS**

The Harding Township Environmental Commission made a proposal to the Township Committee that approximately 65 street lights be eliminated. This will save an estimated \$6090 per year in electricity costs and reduce CO2 emissions by about 16 tons annually.

Approximate counts and locations of the targeted street lights are as follows: Spring Valley (about 20), Village (about 16), Meyersville (5), Dicksons Mill (8), Blue Mill (5), Miller (3), Pleasantville (4), Kitchell (2), Woodland (3) and Featherbed (1). Lights at intersections are NOT

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proposed for removal. A map of the locations is available at your Civic Associations' website – [www.HardingOnline.org](http://www.HardingOnline.org).

The short report by the Environmental Commission is also available. The report recommends that implementation "should include review by the township police and the Department of Public Owrks and input from the residents in general".

The Township Committee is asking for citizen input before any decision is made.

**THE HARDING TWP POLICE DEPARTMENT** is launching a new Community Information Service designed to deliver important and timely information to residents in our area using the latest technology. This service, created by Nixle LLC delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood level public safety and community event notifications by web, email, and cell phone. Sign up at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com). Then share this new service with friends and neighbors to spread the word. From Chief Kevin J. Gaffney, (973)455-1371; [kgaffney@hardingnj.org](mailto:kgaffney@hardingnj.org)

The Harding Twp Police Department is investigating a stolen car case along with break-ins of cars in the township. These cars have been targeted parked at private residences in driveways and closed garages. The incidents occurred during the late evening early morning hours from August 30 till September 12. Incidents have happened on Lee's Hill Rd, Morgan Drive, Welsh Lane, and Primrose Trail Mt. Kemble Lake. Last night a resident on Glen Eagles Drive suprised two unidentified men who had made entry into their car in the process of stealing the car or the contents within. The men ran off. Police responded to the area and no one was located. Police requested a K-9 search of the area. The search was conducted with negative results. The car was processed for fingerprints. All residents need to be aware to lock their cars. Many people leave their keys in the car and we are reminding them to take the keys out of the ignition even if the car is in their garage. Investigation is on going. Surrounding towns are reporting the same type of incidents. Please contact the police to report any suspicious activity or persons. Call 973 455-0500 choose option 0 for a live dispatcher.

### **PLANNING BOARD, August 22, 2011**

Roll Call: Marshall Bartlett, Thomas dePoortere, David Dietz, Robert Edgar, and Virginia Moriarty absent.

#### Announcements/Reports/Presentations

- Mr. Schliefer reported that the Board of Adjustment needs help regarding the number of horses that can be kept on a residential property, and that the issue had been passed to the Board of Health.
- Mr. Saulnier reported that there was no meeting of the Environmental Commission in August, but that it did want to comment on the Fawn Hill Farm application.

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- Mr. Platt reported that the Township Committee had discussed and passed the height restriction ordinance, and that it had discussed the issue of deer culling.
- Ms. Olcott reported that the Advisory Review Committee had not met, and that new septic inspection requirements might be in the pipeline.
- Ms. DiTosto reported that the Cell Tower Advisory Committee had met on August 3<sup>rd</sup> with T-Mobile. The Committee needed to clarify that it did not recommend the DOT site, and T-Mobile indicated it had no preference between the DOT site and the church site. Each site had its pros and cons, and another meeting was schedule for August 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss further.

### Discussion

- The Board then discussed Ordinance #11-11 covering the height of buildings, which was referred by the Township Committee for consistency with the master plan. The Board agreed that it was consistent with the master plan and approved the ordinance.
- The Board then considered the proposed draft ordinance which would amend B-1 (New Vernon Village) Zone regulations. The changes would make the zone more user friendly for small business without losing the historic nature of the village. The original regulations were very restrictive and have discouraged small business from coming downtown. The new regulations would permit two-family dwellings and would eliminate the mandate for mixed use for commercial property. After some discussion regarding outdoor dining, outdoor display of goods, and lighting, it was agreed that there would be further discussion at the September meeting and it would then be submitted to the October meeting of the Township Committee.
- The board then discussed the issue of "property management," or the appearance of property, especially front yards. Potential eyesores include portable storage units, trailers, items for sale (cars, boats, etc.) and household items for disposal. It was generally agreed that acceptable items would be those supported by a building permit. Mr. Platt indicated that Harding was one of the few towns in the area that did not have a property management ordinance. The issue was referred to the Advisory Review Committee for further study.

### **PLANNING BOARD SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

Roll Call: Thomas dePoortere, Virginian Moriarty, and Joe Schliefer absent.

### Announcements/Reports/Presentations

- There had been a meeting with the Bridle Path Association and the Harding Land Trust regarding the management of easements.

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- Ms. Olcott presented some data from census quick fact sheets supplied by the country planning board.
- Mr. Saulnier, reporting for the water and environmental subcommittee, posed the question of whether the idea of a buffer against conservation easements to prevent encroachment into the easements should be considered. He suggested putting this on a future agenda to give the committee additional time to discuss.
- Mr. Saulnier reported that the Environmental Commission had discussed prioritizing easements for monitoring purposes, and also establishing a process for monitoring easements. The next step would be to do a pilot or test case performed by people who are interested in doing the monitoring. Ms. Olcott suggested using college students who are involved with environmental studies. Mr. Saulnier also reported that the Commission is still considering the issues of lighting and deer fencing.
- Mr. Platt reported that HOST members had met with county officials regarding the Primrose property and setting up a contract for the long term maintenance and ongoing stewardship of the property.
- Mr. Bartlett reported that the county had passed a resolution to participate in Phase 1 of the Primrose Project, contingent on a satisfactory contract. He also reported that the Township Committee had approved the height ordinance the Planning Board had recommended.
- Ms. DiTosto reported that the Cell Tower Advisory Committee had met on August 24<sup>th</sup> with T-Mobile to look at the two sites in question. Subsequently, a recommendation for the church site, which T-Mobile preferred, was sent to the Township Committee. .

### Discussion

- Ms. Olcott reported that the draft ordinance amending B-1(New Vernon Village) Zone regulations was ready to be presented to the Township Committee, and asked if the Board was satisfied with the draft. After some discussion, the Board moved to send the draft to the Township Committee.
- The Board then discussed a proposed ordinance regarding emergency generators which would waive coverage analysis and grant setback relief. On input from the Township Construction Official, Mary Ellen Balady, it was proposed that the generator pad is exempt from coverage if the generator's rating did not exceed 20 kilowatts, the pad was no larger than 20 square feet, and the generator was no more than 4 feet high. Setback rules, provided the coverage requirements were met, are that generator not be in front of the principal residence and be no more than 20 feet from the house. After some discussion about setbacks, especially on smaller lots, the Board moved to send the ordinance to the Township Committee.

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### Application

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. Mr. Newlin chastised the applicant's attorney for not appearing at the previous meeting. The attorney apologized to the Board, taking full responsibility for what he described as an extremely isolated mistake in his office. The Board then discussed letters from the attorney which were delivered shortly before the meeting wherein the attorney questioned whether Mr. Platt had a conflict of interest with the application and had properly recused himself from the process. Mr. Newlin explained that the Board makes decisions on publically available information only, and that no private considerations were taken into account. He also explained that Mr. Platt, while having recused himself, was entitled to participate in the process as a neighbor to the property in question. The applicant's engineer then reviewed the proposed plans including a 50 foot conservation area at the front of the property to preserve trees. There was some discussion about whether all the pines would be covered. Discussion then turned to reports by Mr. Fox and the proposed access to the property. He stated that the plans don't provide enough information to show compliance with the township's driveway requirements, and how storm water would be managed from the shared drive and along Spring Valley Road. He proposed adjusting the lot lines slightly and using the original access for the farm lot and going behind the tree line to the mansion lot and westerly back lot rather than using access by the new proposed flag staff to Spring Valley Road. The hour being late, further discussion was carried to the next meeting.

### **HARDING SCHOOL NEWS From the School Superintendent Alex Anemone**

Autumn is here, the leaves are changing and our students and teachers are settling in to productive routines. Each day I come into Harding Township School and leave more impressed than the day before. In addition to preparing our students for their state standardized tests (2011-Grade 8 100% proficient/advanced proficient in math, language arts, science and algebra!) our teachers are committed to teaching the *whole child* using a variety of approaches designed to build on existing strengths and shore up weaknesses. Technology, in the form of SMARTBoards (available in every classroom), laptops, SmartTables or desktops, is integrated into most every lesson. Our *Ambassadors of Kindness Program* is specifically designed to cater to the social-emotional needs of our children. Although it is early in the year, I am thrilled to report that our students have responded very positively to this program and, overall, the state of our school is strong.

We are fully committed to academic excellence and wish to invite Harding Township residents who currently have children registered in a private school to an **open house** on the following dates: **November 4<sup>th</sup>**, **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** and **January 6<sup>th</sup>**. At the **open house**, parents and their children will have an opportunity to meet with school and district administrators, tour the

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building, observe lessons and ask questions specific to their child. If you are curious about HTS and would like to learn more, please join us in the Upper School Library/Media Center from **8:30-10:00a.m. on the above dates. We look forward to meeting with you.**

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT,**  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION,**  
**Harding Open Space Trust, no reports this month**

### **Civic Association News and Announcements**

**Civic Association:** The **DEADLINES FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL are NOVEMBER 11 and December 9.** 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](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 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 **Sat.: 9AM to noon., Oct 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 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)

**Computers, monitors, laptops and televisions.** 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.

# Harding Township Civic Association

## THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

OCTOBER 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)	7:30 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 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues)	7:30 PM
Municipal Court- has merged with Madison NJ Court	