

## MARCH 2012

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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

The Auxiliary is trying something **NEW** for 2012:

What: "**CHILI/SOUP COOK-OFF**"

Where: Fire House, Village Road

When: **Sunday, March 18th** Time: 5:00PM - 6:00PM

For \$7.00 you can sample many different chilis and soups with fresh baked bread and coffee included. Homemade desserts and soda will be available for sale. Vote for your favorites! Prizes will be awarded. **If you would like to enter a chili or soup in the contest, admission is free.** Please call Connie Cherrillo (973-539-9383) or Pat O'Reilly (201-919-2183) to let us know you will be entering a pot of chili or soup.

#### **COMMUNITY EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**

Harding Township residents are invited to join members of the Church of Christ the King and members of the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon for an Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 8 at 6:30AM at Bayne Park. For information, please call Patti Wood at (973) 425-0878.

#### **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

This group invites you to attend either of two showings of the one-hour film "living with NJ Black Bears, Friday March 16 at noon or Thursday March 22 at 5PM in the Harding Twp Kirby Municipal Building main meeting room.

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 need help in spotting or treating nests, please contact the Committee

at [khmeister3@gmail.com](mailto:khmeister3@gmail.com), (973) 605 8274 or [r.a.shields@att.net](mailto:r.a.shields@att.net), (973) 267-5673) 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. Adding eggs controls the growth of the goose population. Done properly, it is both, humane and effective!

**FROM THE HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:**

**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 at the annual Memorial Day ceremonies that follow the parade. This your chance to recognize and thank that energetic, caring and giving person about whom you marvel, "He/she is amazing. Where do they get the energy to do all that?" Your 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** and can be submitted to parade chairman Daniel Henegan by e-mail ([Daniel.Henegan@gmail.com](mailto:Daniel.Henegan@gmail.com)). Nominations can also be submitted to any other Civic Association trustee.

**HARDING TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION is sponsoring a Harding Township Road Side Clean-up Day**, to be held on **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**, from **9AM until Noon**. We need your help to keep maintain the rural beauty of our town.

Meet at **Kirby town hall** to get a street assignment where you can go pick-up road side debris. Gloves, safety vests, garbage bags, and refreshments will be provided. Free tee shirts will be provided to all participants (while they last). This is great opportunity for students to earn community service hours. Rain date will be Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please be sure to wear sunscreen and bug spray. **Harding, Think Green!** Sponsored by the

**HEADS UP! Spring is coming! HARDING MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CEREMONY - May 28, 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 (across from the New Vernon Fire House). The Memorial Day ceremony will begin immediately after the parade ends. Any Township group or organization interested in participating this year should contact the Parade Chair, Scott Shipley, at 908-406-1402

**CALLING ALL VETERANS: HARDING WANTS TO HONOR YOUR SERVICE**

The Harding Township Civic Association would like to invite all Veterans living in Harding Township to march or ride (in the Audi of Mendham convertible) in our Memorial Day Parade. If you are interested, please contact the parade chair, Daniel Henegan by phone at 973-270-5420 or by email at [Daniel.Henegan@gmail.com](mailto:Daniel.Henegan@gmail.com).

## **HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

### **Health Screenings:**

The Health Department is having a free Female Cancer Screening on Thursday, March 29, 2012, from 9am to 11am at the Municipal Building. The screening includes an exam by a doctor, PAP test, blood pressure, and educational materials. An appointment is necessary.

Male Cancer Screening is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4, 2012 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Municipal Building. The screening includes an exam by a doctor, blood work, and educational material. An appointment is necessary.

A free Adult Health Fasting Blood-work clinic will be held on Thursday, April 19, 2012, from 8am to 11am at the Municipal Building. An appointment is necessary.

The above clinics are for residents 18 years of age and older. To schedule an appointment for the above clinics, please call 973-267-8000, ext.1968. **Health Hot Line: 973/267-8000 ext 1962.**

### **Dog Licenses:**

If you reside in Harding Township and own a dog, age 7 months and older, that dog or dogs must be licensed every year by January 31, 2012. Harding Township gives their residents till February 29, 2012, after that date a late fee of \$10 per dog will be charged. By State law, in order for a license to be issued, the dog's rabies immunity must be good through October 31, 2012. Any questions, please call 973/267-8000, extension 1968.

### **National Public Health Week**

National Public Health Week is April 2-8, 2012. A healthier America begins with strong public health systems across the country. With nearly 1 million Americans dying every year from diseases that could be prevented, even small preventive changes and community initiatives can make a big difference in living healthier lives. The focus of local public health department interventions is to improve health and quality of life through the prevention and treatment of diseases and other physical and mental health conditions.

Local health departments educate the community regarding health and environment issues and enforce laws and regulations that protect health. Healthy behaviors and disease prevention are encouraged by offering immunizations and clinics such as cancer screening, adult bloodwork screening and rabies vaccinations for animals. Investigating health problems and linking people to the health services they require is another community service.

During Public Health Week visit the Harding Health Department on the second floor of the Municipal Building. Meet your health department staff and pick up a packet of educational material.

### **Harding Township School's Husky Pups**

The Harding Township School is accepting registrations for the "Husky Pups" pre-school program for the 2012 – 2013 school year. The program is open to children who are three or four years old. Instruction is differentiated between the three and four year old children within the classroom to cater to their development. The "Husky Pups" pre-schoolers will attend the program five days a week, for two hours and forty-five minutes each day. There are two sessions, with the morning program running from 8:25 – 11:15, and the afternoon program running from 12:10 – 3:00. Tuition is \$3,650 to be paid in monthly installments.

The program is taught by a certified teacher with a primary school endorsement. Teaching assistants also provide support for the class. The program offers a multi-sensory, interdisciplinary curriculum that reaches all students. In the past the "Husky Pups" have enjoyed exciting experiences throughout the year, including a visit from the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department, a field trip to the Crewe Hill Horse Stables, hatching chicks in the classroom, and cooking lessons!

For applications or information regarding the program, please call the Student Services Office at (973) 267 – 6398 ext. 112. If you would like to schedule a visit to the classroom, please send e-mails to [jlorenzo@hardingtwp.org](mailto:jlorenzo@hardingtwp.org) or call (973) 267 – 6398 ext. 134. A birth certificate is required as part of the application process and a \$50 deposit must accompany the completed application.

**NEW VERNON PRESBYTERIAN NURSERY SCHOOL** (NVPNS) is now accepting enrollment for our 2½, 3 and 4 year old classes for the 2012-2013 school year. We are a non-denominational, educational program that offers a warm and nurturing environment that helps your child prepare for kindergarten. All of our classes start at 9:00 am for duration of 2 ½, 3½ or 4 hours respectively. We support our busy parents with optional early morning drop-off, Stay 'n Play until 3pm, summer camp and enrichment programs. Most importantly, our kids and parents have fun!

Established in 1988, we are located in the Fellowship Building of the New Vernon Presbyterian Church at the crossroads of Village Road and Lee's Hill Road. Please call our Director, Laurie Ptalis at 973-326-9839 for a tour and visit our website at [www.nvpns.org](http://www.nvpns.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

### **From Alex Anemone, HARDING TOWNSHIP SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

The staff and students will be hosting our second annual Technology Showcase on **March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m.** in the Middle School gymnasium. Come for the *Intro to Twitter* and stay for the *Student-Directed Movie Trailers*! STEM projects will also be on display in our Middle School Science Lab.

## **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. Please come and let your voice be heard. Our next meeting is scheduled for **April 25, 2012 at 8:30 AM** in the Guidance Office of Harding Township School.

Effective January 1, 2012, Harding Alliance will no longer accept state grant funding, and will rely on the generosity of local residents and private foundations. Please help us pursue our mission by identifying foundations to reach out to. We have also identified **two volunteer leadership positions** to fill. These are opportunities for leadership development through skill building and networking, while helping the community. **Vice Chairperson:** To represent township parents in identifying community needs for substance abuse awareness, and coordination of programming at HTS, and throughout Harding Township. Consensus building skills are helpful for working with various groups in town, including Township Administration, Public Safety, Kemmerer Library, Harding Seniors, and Harding Township School. **Development Officer:** To help Harding Alliance retain its independence, and to assist in its mission of substance abuse awareness, through identifying and developing fundraising opportunities in town.

Please contact Judy Malloy, Chairperson, at [Judymotown@gmail.com](mailto:Judymotown@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Mayor Bartlett, Chief Gaffney, Garry Annibal HT Health Department and Dr. Petersen (Principal, HTS) can also be contacted for further information on these vital volunteer positions. Please register for updates to our [website](https://sites.google.com/site/hardingalliance/) at <https://sites.google.com/site/hardingalliance/> and our blog at <http://hardingalliance.blogspot.com/>.

## **TOWNSHIP NEWS:**

### **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – February 21**

Attending: Bartlett, Lanzerotti, Platt, Ward

Alf Newlin, the current head of the Planning Board, was sworn in to replace the seat vacated when Regina Egea resigned. The meeting was standing room only as citizens turned out to voice their views about rumored actions on the Police Department.

But first the, TC again updated the community on the status of the 2012 operating budget and also unveiled the preliminary capital budget. The operating budget is still showing a \$230K deficit that will be closed by further tax increases and or cost cuts. The budget includes 4.1% salary increase for the police (contractual for this the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the contract), a 2% salary increase for the police chief and other employees. The budget fully funds health care and pension costs and it absorbs the approximately 1% reduction in the

assessed value of properties. The budget discussion and process will continue into March when the budget will be formally introduced and April when the budget will be adopted.

A review of HT debt showed that: (1) the 1992 Green Acres loan has been paid off, (2) the 2001 \$1.7 bond issue will be paid off in 2016 and (3) leaving the balance of \$7.7 million (2008 issue) which funded \$2.9mm of Open Space and \$4.8mm of low income housing project (The Farm at Harding) at Kitchell Road and Woodland Avenue. Aside: 50% of your Open Space property tax goes to paying principal and interest.

The Capital Budget for 2012 is \$340.5K. Details can be found on the HT website. Large categories are improvements and repairs to facilities (\$108K), upgrade for Police Dept info technology (\$14.5K), redevelopment zone (\$95K), The Farm at Harding (\$25K), design of two more units at The Farm (\$25K), basins (\$70K) and DPW equipment (\$3K). All of the capital items are paid on a cash basis and are not financed with borrowing.

The citizens then had a chance to talk about the police force. The concern seems to be that the TC is considering merging the Harding Police Department with another town ("shared services") and that the comments from the audience were nearly unanimous in their support of the police department and included recollections of a number of positive actions. The meeting got a bit heated at times with an accusation that a cover story in the Observer Tribune (which highlighted the HT PD's high cost but HT's low crime rate) was "orchestrated" by the TC (flatly denied). One citizen went so far as to accuse the TC "that they had already decided" to consolidate the PD and he gave as evidenced by the "scowls on [your] faces" at which point the individual stormed out of the room. Your reporter, an observer of the TC of many years, did not see any scowls.

With some exasperation, Mayor Bartlett assured the crowd that "of course!!!" the public will be able to participate in discussions about important actions regarding public safety. He said that "public perception is way ahead of reality" and that nobody on the TC wants to jeopardize public safety" and he emphasized that "short response time is important".

TC member Nic Platt said that the whole issue about the police came up in January because in ticking off all the issues facing the Township for 2012 the PBA contract negotiation is a big one. He said that "every single department will be looked at for cost savings" – DPW staffing has been cut back in prior years as has their work schedule; The construction department, with much higher fees now runs at breakeven; and flu shot are now charged for whereas in the past they were free. He said that the Police Department is now requires some "creative solutions".

Interestingly, even some of the most vociferous supporters said that they were "not against studying the Police Department, even shared services" and that "nobody is saying that consolidating is the wrong way to go". But these individuals said that the discussion should be done in the open with input from the Chief and the public. Rounding out the

discussion, two citizens said that there was “too much tension” and vitriol and that her fellow citizens should “hit the subject, not the people”, meaning our (unpaid) TC members who are responsible to take all the needs of the community in total and ask the citizens to fund it with their property taxes. At this point, with the excitement over and people having had a chance to air their views, the room mostly emptied as the TC got back to the usual mundane business – paying bills, transferring funds and making appointments.

However, perhaps the crowd should have stayed as the TC considered a change in the PBA’s HC plan that they said would save taxpayers \$89K annually (about \$67K for the balance of 2012) while not changing the benefits or impacting the 8 officers’ pocket books. The PBA union representative was in the audience and voiced the union’s objection to the change saying that this change should be part of the overall contract negotiations later in 2012. The TC passed the resolution.

### **PLANNING BOARD MEETING January 23, 2012**

Mr. Hall, as temporary Chair of the Planning Board, called the meeting to order. He announced that Mr. Bartlett had been reappointed as a Class I member, Ms. Egea as a Class III member, Ms. Olcott as a Class IV member and Ms. Ditosto as a Class II alternate. He also stated that all members of the Board had signed the oath of office.

Roll Call: Mr. de Poortere and Mr. Edgar absent.

#### 2012 Reorganization Meeting

1. Mr. Newlin was then re-elected Chair of the Board, and Ms. Olcott was re-elected Vice Chair.
2. A resolution to provide professional services was approved.
3. A resolution approving meeting dates for 2012 was approved.
4. A resolution appointing the Board Secretary was approved.
5. Swearing of professionals was deferred to the next meeting since the planner and the engineer were absent.

Mr. Newlin then congratulated the Board members for their work last year, and expressed appreciation for Mr. Fox’s work for the Board.

#### Announcements/Reports/Presentations

The application of GHK Realty II/Fawn Hill Farm, PB-04-10 was carried to the meeting of February 27, 2012.

Mr. Newlin announced that he would like to set up a workshop with the Board to discuss water issues. Ms. Phillips reported that financial disclosure forms would be coming out soon, and that the Master Plan had been posted to the township website.

Mr. Schliefer reported that the Board of Adjustment was dealing with generators, constrained lots, and flag lots, and that the Hurstmont application had been deferred to the Health Department. There was some discussion as to why the Hurstmont application was

before the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Hall explained that the requested use variance (to convert the main building to town houses) and the density variance (to subdivide the property to create six lots and get ten dwelling units on less than 20 acres in an RR zone) were within the jurisdiction of the Board of Adjustment. There was some discussion about the role of the Planning Board in determining the fate of the property, and whether the Planning Board should be advising the Board of Adjustment. PB should be advising BA. Mr. Bartlett said he would call Mr. Rosenbach to see if he wanted input from the Planning Board regarding impact to the Master Plan. Mr. Saulnier reported that the Environmental Commission had met to hear John Murray speak about the easement monitoring project which included ranking the importance of the easements and recordkeeping.

Ms. Egea, reporting for the Township Committee, said that there were budget pressures resulting from lower construction activity, fewer moving violations and a decrease in taxes. Ratables are down 1%, and expenses are growing at 2-3%. The town departments are working on their budgets, and there will be a special meeting on January 26. There could be a possible re-assessment of property values in 2013 with changes implemented in 2014. Ms. Olcott reported that the Advisory Review Committee met in December to discuss the lighting ordinance. She said the Committee was asked to look at the tree preservation ordinance in relation to utility lines, and that rules regarding historic structures would be examined.

Ms. DiTosto reported that the cell tower application was going before the zoning board and that AT&T would be joining the application. She also reported that the Township Committee sent a letter asking that the DOT site be selected as the site for the tower.

#### Applications

PB-10-08, Applicant **Primrose Partners, LLC**, Block 46, Lots 6, 7.01, 8.03 and 10.04, Brook Drive South, Preliminary and Final Major Subdivision. Action: Amendment of Approval Condition. An amendment was approved extending the deadline for the placement of conservation easement monument to the end of this year.

#### Discussion

The Board discussed the appropriateness of letter of support for the Great Swamp Watershed Association Green Acres grant application for Primrose Farm. Mr. Newlin was not in favor of the Board taking a position and Mr. Hall advised that it was not necessary. The Board agreed that Mr. Hall would write a letter saying the application was consistent with the Master Plan.

The Board discussed the Environmental Commission Report on Outdoor Lighting Regulation. Mr. Saulnier reported that the EC agreed to look at the current ordinance and offer a proposal for changes. Ms. Olcott said she didn't see an improvement over the current ordinance which deals with nuisances. It was generally agreed that one big issue was enforcement of any ordinance. The Board agreed that discussion would be tabled pending

further data. Mr. Bartlett said that he would take up the issue of enforcement with Ms. McKane.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**, from agenda for February 16, 2012 meeting  
**Pending Applications**

Application # BOA-22-11; Harding Holdings PM LLC , 679 Mt. Kemble Avenue, Block 27 Lot 2 Zone RR; seeking (d) variances for use (to permit 4 dwelling units in renovated building); and density (to allow total of 10 dwelling units on 19.6 acre parcel); subject to subsequent (bifurcated) application for site plan and subdivision approval and related (c) variances. (Ed Note: this is the HURSTMONT application, referred to above in the Planning Board notes.)

Application # BOA-23-10; T-Mobile Northeast LLC & Sectorsite,LLC (Applicants); NJ Conference 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists (Owner); 501 Tempe Wick Road, Block 33 Lot 9, Zone RR. Preliminary / Final Site Plan and "D" Variance. Carried to the March meeting scheduled date which is subject to change.

**HARDING SCHOOL BOARD**, No report this month

**Civic Association News and Announcements**

**Civic Association:** The DEADLINES FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL are April 6 and May 4. 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: Mar 17, 31; April 14, 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) **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.

**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 Preservation 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(2nd Monday)	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	