

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

May 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENT

HARDING SCHOOL PTO, will hold its “**Second annual Car Show**” on **Sunday, May 20, 8:30-11:30a.m.** Come to the Harding School parking lot for a wonderful morning of car exhibits. Tickets to this event are only \$5 with a family limit of \$15! Last year, the show featured classic cars, modern sports cars, muscle cars, Scooby Doo vans and much more.

COME TO THE ANNUAL Harding Township School SPRING CONCERT! Come hear the Jazz Band, Orchestra and Chorus on **Tuesday, May 22, 7:00p.m.** Admission free, in the gymnasium, Harding Township school, Lees Hill Rd.

FROM THE HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:

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, Daniel Henegan by phone at 973-270-5420 or by email at Daniel.Henegan@gmail.com. All Veterans living in Harding are welcome 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.

THE HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY Invites all to the Tunis Ellicks House at the corner of Village and Millbrook Roads, following the parade for lemonade and cookies, May 28.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRST AID SQUAD

Annual Steak and Lobster Dinner FRIDAY June 1, 2012 6pm, Seating and Food orders begin at 5:30pm; service at 6:00pm. Food is served until approximately 10:00pm or when the food runs out!!! Dinner Selection Includes Steak, Lobster, Chicken and Hamburgers (for Kids only); All dinners include Salad Bar, Baked Bread, French fries, Beer, Wine, Soda and Homemade Dessert. Steamed Clams and Corn on the Cob are also available. Steak \$20; Lobster \$25; Chicken \$15

All Proceeds go to the New Vernon Fire Company and First aid Squad. The Volunteer fire Department is completely independent and raises all its own funds for equipment, facilities and operating expenses. No taxpayer dollars are used to support the fire department.

Kemmerer Library – May

“Tea with Lady Mary”, 11 a.m. every Tuesday through June 5. If you missed the first series of *Downton Abbey* or want to re-live the splendors of British aristocracy and their minions, bring your lunch – we’ll make the tea – and enjoy an episode of Season One of the popular PBS series. *Reserve a spot or drop in.*

Evening Book Group, Wednesday, June 6 at 7:30 pm. This month’s selection is *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern. The author’s debut novel has everybody raving about the magical love story and haunting plot. Join us for an engaging discussion.

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Join us for a “**State of the Kemmerer Library**” presentation at the Township Committee’s regular meeting on the evening of **May 30th**. The meeting starts at **7:30pm**.

“**The Science of Yoga**” with MJ Turnbull, **Thursday, May 31, at 10:30 am**. The Library’s favorite yoga instructor will talk about the benefits and science behind the ancient practice of yoga. Come and be inspired to join our popular yoga classes on Monday mornings.

Red Cross Blood Drive, Thursday, June 7, 2-7pm. Sponsored in partnership with Turpin Realtors, the Library will host its first-ever blood drive. The summer months are traditionally periods of blood shortages at the hospitals and emergency rooms. We hope you will donate! Registration link online at www.hardinglibrary.org or at the Library.

Travel Through History Lecture Series. The Library is accepting registrations for our upcoming lecture series on the history and lore of Italy. Through photos and stories, historian Alex Lang will bring the audience on a journey through Rome, Sicily, Venice and the Crusades. 4 lectures **Thursdays at 10:30 am, June 21 & 28, July 11 and 18**. Suggested donation for the series \$25.

Children’s Programs: Baby Play Group: Thursdays, 10:30 am. Moms and babies, 4 months-12 months of age, meet to play/chat and sing songs. **Toddler Time: Tuesdays, 10:00 am** for children ages 1-4. Listen to stories, sing songs and make a theme-related craft.

Mother’s Day Chocolate Party, Saturday, May 12, 12-2 pm. Who doesn’t like chocolate? Jen Carlin has stories and chocolate crafts planned for children of all ages. Come create something sweet for mom!

Library Meeting Rooms are available to Harding residents, nonprofit organizations and businesses for a nominal fee. If you would like to reserve space, you may view our Meeting Room Policy and rates on our website at www.hardinglibrary.org.

Library Displays: If you would like have a collection of art or memorabilia that you would like to display in the Library, please contact Lotte Newlin at 973-267-2665.

A celebration! Join the Friends of the Kemmerer Library in honoring Michael FitzPatrick, Ginny Moriarty and Kim Zsitvay for their outstanding work on the Capital Campaign for the new library. **Friday, May 18, 7:00 to 10:00 pm** at the Basking Ridge Country Club. Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served. In addition there will be a great silent auction with an array of gifts.

HTRA SUMMER DAY CAMP – 2012 ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN!

The Harding Twp. Recreation Association is pleased to offer its Summer Day Camp program this year from Monday July 2 through Friday July 27. (closed on Wednesday July 4th). Campers can enroll for as many weeks as they wish. Camp hours are from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information and enrollment forms visit our website at www.hardingtownshipdaycamp.com, email us at promano59@comcast.net or call us at 973-326-1775.

The HTRA Day Camp offers programs for children from 3-12 years of age. Located at the Harding Township School in New Vernon, the daily activities include Arts & Crafts, Swimming, Sports & Games, Computer Lab and other fun activities. The Polliwog program is offered for 3

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and 4 year olds and runs from 9 am – Noon, with the option to enroll for the extended day program which runs till 3 pm.

NEW VERNON PRESBYTERIAN NURSERY SCHOOL is offering a three-week Summer Camp program in June. The camp is open to all 3 and 4 year old children in the area, regardless of the preschool they presently attend. We are now accepting camp enrollment as well as registration for our 2½, 3 and 4 year old classes for the 2012-2013 School Year. For more information, and to schedule a visit, please contact our director, Laurie Ptalis, at 973-326-9839. You can also visit our website at nvpns.org.

HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

Substitute School Nurses Needed!

The Harding Township School is in need of substitute school nurses. It doesn't happen often, but there are times our dedicated school nurse is sick or has to accompany a class on a field trip. If you have a current registered nurse license and would like to explore the possibility of becoming a substitute school nurse, please call Dr. Darren Petersen, Principal, at 973-267-6398, extension 108.

Harding Township Announcement Regarding Recent Burglaries

The Harding Township Police Department (HTPD) and the Harding Township Committee want to alert residents that a number of burglaries have recently occurred in Harding in the Lee's Hill Road area. A burglary ring operating in Northern New Jersey is being sought by a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task force, in which HTPD is participating. Break-ins have occurred near major highways such as I-287, I-78, and I-80. Break-ins have been reported in Morris Township, Bernards Township, as well as Harding. Many of the break-ins have occurred while residences were unoccupied.

As well as participating in the joint task force, the HTPD wants to assure residents that we are responding appropriately and swiftly to address this situation, including providing additional patrols and closely coordinating with neighboring towns. We are asking residents to: lock your doors & windows, leave enough lights on to make your house look occupied, and activate your alarm when away from home; report suspicious behavior to the HTPD, including cars driving suspiciously or with multiple men; keep an eye on your neighbors' property; and call police if you are going away so that we can put your house on watch.

In the event of an emergency or to report suspicious persons or motor vehicles in your neighborhood, contact the police department day or night by dialing **911** or **973-455-0500** and press '0' for the dispatcher. This message sent from Chief Kevin J. Gaffney.

Bayne Park volunteers are asking if you can join them in the effort to humanely ***control the Canada Geese population*** at Bayne Park this summer. **Just sign up to be "on call", at 10AM or 2PM, on any day from May 15th thru July 4th.** We'll call you minutes before your selected time slot & tell you if geese are present at the park. If so, you will come to the park to join 2 or 3 others to chase the geese away. It will take no more than ½ hour of your time. You will be using proven techniques, under the guidance of a trained volunteer. The birds learn quickly, and after the 1st few weeks, they rarely return.

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Modest physical effort is required; primarily, the ability to walk across the park at a reasonable pace. All equipment is supplied. Shoes that can get muddy & long pants are suggested. This precisely timed “harassment phase”, for which we are recruiting now, is just part of a longer carefully planned scenario grounded in principles of goose behavior. Come be part of a trend setting project that started here! Contact: Roberta Shields, r.a.shields@att.net, (973) 267-5673.

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 quarterly meetings are scheduled for **June 13 and September 19, 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 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 April 9 – Budget Adopted for 2012

Capping a process that began in September of 2011 with mid-year 2011 budget update, and included the first preliminary look at 2012, the proposed 2012 budget was finally formally adopted. The process gives citizens ample time to review and comment on how the Township raises and spends its funds. The slides for the budget presentation which give greater detail than this report are on Harding’s website.

Remember that our 5 person Township Committee (TC) is responsible for only about 29% of your total property taxes – 25% for municipal services (police, roads, health, administration) and 3.6% (HOST – Harding Open Space Trust). About 42% goes to the schools and 29% goes to the County. In 2011, the total of all taxes was about \$21.7 million raised from property assessed at \$2.07 billion. The average residential property was assessed at \$1.26 million and paid taxes of \$13K.

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Municipal Debt. HT policy is to pay down debt which stands at just under \$10mm while debt service (principal and interest) will be about \$1.1mm in 2012. HT debt is rated AAA and projections showed the debt being eliminated in 2028. The debt was issued to fund affordable housing mandated by Trenton (40%), general municipal purposes (16%), wildlife (13%) Glen Alpin purchase and restoration (8%), open space (23%).

HT Open Space Finances. For 2012 the HT open space tax rate will remain constant at \$0.038 per \$100 of assessed valuation. This will generate about \$777K for the Open Space Trust Fund which had a balance of about \$3.37mm as of the first of the year.

How Does the Money Get Spent? In 2012, HT municipal spending (ex-open space) will be just under \$8.7mm. About 54% will go to the current and retired employees, about 10% will be for debt service, another 10% for reserve for uncollected taxes, 4.5% capital improvements, while all other consumes the balance, about 21%.

For the spending that can be allocated by department (66% of the total), almost half (48.2%) is for Police, 18% is for DPW, 8.4% for Administration, 6.8% for Health, 5.5% for Construction, 5.1% for Finance and Tax collection. The balance (8.3%) funds Zoning Board, Planning Board, Joint Court (shared with Madison), engineering and legal service, none of which are more than 2%.

Budget Highlights:

- \$50K revenue increase
- \$180K expense reduction
- 4.1% Police Salary Increase (as per last year of 4 year contract)
- 2% salary increase for all other employees
- Fully funds health care and pension costs
- Absorbs reduction in Assessed Value caused mostly by prop tax appeals
- Budget stays under State mandated Levy and Spending Caps.
- Funds State's affordable housing mandates

About 36% of the total \$8.6mm is projected to come from non-tax sources – the most surplus (which will be replenished), fees, delinquent tax collections, state aid, etc. The other 64% is from property taxes.

As mentioned above, the total assessed value of property in HT has declined for the first time in memory – by about \$21mm to \$2.004 billion – fully 1%. This is significant since to just keep tax revenue even with 2011, taxes would have to rise over 1%. So to pay for increased spending (police salaries up 4.1%, other employees up 2%, etc, etc), property taxes must increase more than 1%. So the 2012 budget calls for a 1.90% increase in the tax rate.

The presentation reiterated some of the **financial challenges facing HT:**

1. Uncertain State policies on health and pension reforms. For example state action on benefits lowered HT costs significantly (\$147K) in 2012. This “sunsets” in 2014 which could cause a serious budget issue then.

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2. Exponential increases in benefit costs.
3. Police Contract negotiations
4. Uncertain State Affordable Housing policies and mandates.
5. And **the financial objectives** were restated:
6. Funding to maintain or improve services
7. Ensure conservative expenditures and stable tax rate
8. Continue to pay down debt
9. Maintain strong financial position, surplus balance and AAA debt rating
10. Fund capital expenditures on a cash (pay as you go) basis.

Township Committee Mtg (4/9/12) – Discussion of Police Continues

At the 4/9/12 TC meeting, the 2012 budget received final adoption. (See report in this issue). The continuing discussion of the police was the other major item.

A confluence of factors has led to the heightened interest and emotions around the police. This is the fourth and final year of the PBA (police union) contract with HT – so the fiscal implications are significant in the short and long term. One officer resigned and our detective is retiring at age 47. In addition, a sharp increase in the volume of traffic stops and tickets over the last 18 months caught the attention of the TC and public. Spending on the police department, by far the largest in the budget, is a natural item for analysis for efficiency given the financial pressure that HT faces in the form of a 2% state mandated cap on spending increase (PBA contract has a 4.1% increase for 2012) and a 1% decrease in total assessed property value. Just the hint that the Township might entertain a reduction in the force (“taking attrition”) or that some sharing of some function(s) might be examined has generated unusually large turnout at the recent TC meeting not to mention the raft of lawn signs calling for HT to “Save Out Public Safety”.

At the meeting, and in the face of some aggressive attendees, the TC again struggled as it had a prior meetings to express that they are taking a measured, thoughtful approach to police staffing and trying to meet demands for public safety in the most cost effective manner. Alf Newlin, the newest member of the TC and appointed spokesman on this issue, pleaded for respectful dialogue and promised continuing transparency. He said that the TC is meeting with any and all groups over the coming weeks – school, seniors, fire dept and and EMTs and citizens. The TC will get expert input from the HT police chief and the county sheriff. Bench marking analysis will also be employed.

TC member Newlin said the TC doesn’t agree with the demand for “more police regardless of cost” nor with the demand for “less taxes no matter the cost”. They are attempting to take a balanced approach. Mayor Bartlett said that the police salaries are “roughly in-line” with other towns but that experts consider health benefits significantly out of line.

One member of the public complained that when she called dispatch for police service to her home when her child was home alone, she was told that “there were no police available”. The ensuing discussion revealed that the all police were already at the scene and the suggestion was made to train the dispatcher (a shared service) to be more helpful.

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Two citizens called for a balanced approach with one saying that decisions need to be “fair to the taxpayer and fair to policemen.” He highlighted the long term financial implications (post retirement costs) of these decisions and hailed the hiring of a professional to engage in the contract negotiations.

It was pointed out that the lawn signs were “bad for property values”. In response a citizen said the signs were a “call to action” and that though he didn’t mind study (of staffing level and consolidation) we “can’t postpone public safety”.

Another citizen said “I don’t think I pay enough in taxes”.

A resolution was passed to authorize the search for a police officer. Even with this the TC had to respond to skeptical questioning about whether this would really lead to the ultimate hiring of an officer. The TC assured the audience that an officer would be hired to replace the man that left and the Chief said that he received over 80 applications for the last opening on the force.

PLANNING BOARD MEETING, April 23, 2012, Ms. Olcott absent.

Announcements/Reports/Presentations

- Mr. Saulnier indicated that he was still considering subcommittee assignments.
- Mr. Saulnier stated that the water training session with Gary Annibal was good, and that he would like to repeat it at the library for the town, time to be determined. He will look to get the slides posted on the town’s website.
- The Environmental Commission met on 4/4 and discussed deer fencing. Members will speak to Jockey Hollow representatives about deer management. Town Clean Up Day was proclaimed a success. The EC will give their annual report to the Township Committee at an upcoming meeting, and will consider a proposal for the use of solar energy in the town.
- Ms.DiTosto reported that the Cell Tower Committee had not met, but that there had been a Zoning Board meeting where a radio engineer had testified that there was no difference between the two proposed tower sites from an RF perspective.
- Mr. Bartlett reported that a mower for the four parks and the area around the municipal building was hired.
- Ms. Moriarty, reporting for HOST, indicated that the Primrose acquisition won’t be completed before the fall and that a welcome party is being planned. HOST is also looking to improve its website.
- Mr. Bartlett reported that the Township Committee had approved the Environmental Commission’s recommendation to turn off lights along Spring Valley Road, and that bulb wattage at intersections would be reduced from 100 watts to 50 watts. The HOAs at Harding Green and Shadowbrook will be asked to consider reducing the lighting in their neighborhoods.
- Mr. Schleifer reported that the Board of Adjustment heard two proposals from the developer of Hurstmont. One was a non-starter, while the other was considered a possibility. The developer will come back with additional plans.

Resolutions

PB-05-09, **Applicant Hartington J Trust**, Block 7, Lots 1.01, 1.02, 1.03 and 4.02, Van Beuren Road, Preliminary and Final Major Subdivision. Resolution approving application approved as drafted.

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Applications

PB-04-10, **Applicant GHK Realty II/Fawn Hill Farm**, Block 4, Lots 21 and 21.01, 655-665 Spring Valley Road, Preliminary and Final Major Subdivision. Action: Continue Public Hearing. The Board was to hear more detail on several items, including the forest on the back lot, language licensing the bridle trail, and the tree conservation easement along Spring Valley Road. Mr. Hall wondered whether the baseline document needed to be supplemented with pictures to support the tree conservation easement. The applicant's attorney agreed to do so. Mr. Fox had issued a letter on April 17th, and the applicant's engineer said that the plans had been revised accordingly. The Board wondered about the vegetation that should replace the drive that is being removed through the back lot to the mansion; the engineer said that it would be seeded and left to return to its natural state. There was further back and forth on the draft resolution. The bridle trail license language had been agreed with the Bridle Trail Association. Mr. Hall suggested a change in the septic plan to provide easements to allow existing systems to serve existing buildings until permits pulled to build on the new lots. Mr. Platt suggested that it was not necessary to remove the pool structures, that the owners should be given the option to keep pool as long as the mansion is retained. The resolution was revised, and Mr. Hall then went through all the revisions to the resolution which was then approved by the Board.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, April 19, 2012

Resolutions

1. Application # BOA-02-12, Bruce and Mary Dalziel
 2. Application # BOA-03-12, Peter and Carolyn Kirn
- Extension of Time Request: Application # BOA-10-27, Michael Cammarata, 35 Pleasantville Road, Block 17, Lot 20.

Review of Revised Plans

Discussion of Board of Adjustment Application #05-11 Linda Pinkus, revised engineering plan

Pending Applications

1. Application # BOA-23-10; T-Mobile Northeast LLC, New Cingular Wireless Pc and Sectorsite, LLC (Applicants); NJ Conference 7th Day Adventists (Owner), 501 Tempe Wick Road, Block 33 Lot 9, Zone RR; Preliminary / Final Site Plan and "D" Variance
2. Application # BOA-22-11; Harding Holdings PM LLC, ("Hurstmont"); 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. NOTE: The Board's consideration of this application will be limited to non-binding review of proposed revisions submitted by the applicant.

At the March meeting, the Board members expressed their views on the project without voting; only one member expressed support for the project as presented that night, in which no lot was conforming to the zoning ordinances. Members of the board are concerned that approval of a subdivision with all lots completely non-conforming would serve to hamper decisions regarding future waivers, in this subdivision, as well as others in future.

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, April 4, 2012

Present: Richard Bruno, Richard Clew, Diane Hinds, Nanette DiTosto, Sharon Krizko, Karl Meister (chair), Nic Platt, Hugh Symonds; absent: James Morgan, John Murray

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Richard Bruno and Nanette DiTosto were welcomed as new members of the EC. Nanette DiTosto will serve as the EC Liaison to the Planning Board, replacing Peter Saulnier. D. Hicks administered the Oaths of Office to Richard Bruno, Nanette DiTosto and Diane Hinds.

LIAISON REPORTS

Planning Board (PB) – N. DiTosto reported that the Fawn Hill application was reviewed and the PB decided to draft a resolution for further consideration.

N. DiTosto reported that there was no action on the issue of Deer Fencing and that a subcommittee is currently reviewing the subject. R. Clew will seek further information from ANJEC and the National Park Service regarding deer management.

Board of Adjustment (BOA) – H. Symonds was unable to attend the BOA meeting. N. DiTosto stated that although she was not at the meeting, she understood that the Cell Tower application was heard and that AT&T has joined the T-Mobile application. Health issues concerning the cell tower were extensively discussed. The radio frequency engineer also gave testimony as to the coverage at the Seventh Day Adventist Church site.

N. DiTosto, as a member of the Cell Tower Advisory Committee (CTAC), reported that the position of the CTAC was that the NJDOT site should not be considered. The CTAC has reviewed both the NJDOT and the Seventh Day Adventist Church sites. A general discussion ensued.

K. Meister suggested that the EC make a specific recommendation regarding the location of the Cell Tower. The EC's primary concern is the proximity to Primrose Brook and the possible contamination by fuel from generator usage. H. Symonds will prepare a letter specifying protections for Primrose Brook and the viewscape for review by the EC and subsequent presentation at the next BOA meeting.

Citizen's Park Advisory Committee (CPAC) – R. Clew reported that the committee reviewed a potential location for a small patio and bench as well as the replacement of a fence in Memorial Park.

Harding Open Space Trust (HOST) – No report.

Shade Tree - No report.

Bridle Paths – D. Hinds reported that the clearing of the paths continues. She noted that a Hunter Pace Event by the Spring Valley Hounds is scheduled for June 3, 2012.

PROJECTS

Easement Stewardship – S. Krizko reported that the database framework has been established. D. Hicks will be providing the data to J. Murray and S. Krizko to begin the database testing.

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The Township Committee passed a resolution on March 12, 2012 authorizing the EC to submit a grant application to ANJEC in order to provide additional funding for the easement stewardship project. The EC submitted the application to ANJEC on March 30, 2012.

Street Lights/Energy Efficiency Analysis – N. Platt reported that a motion would be made at the Township Committee meeting on April 9, 2012 to turn out the streetlights on the outskirts of town. This will be accomplished by the unscrewing of the light bulbs; streetlights at intersections will remain unchanged. The reduction in the streetlights will protect the rural image of Harding Township by preserving the night sky, decreasing the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere and providing a cost savings of \$6000 per year. K. Meister and H. Symonds will attend the Township Committee meeting on April 9, 2012 to present a list of the lights that are recommended to be turned off as well as a proposal for those lights that will have a wattage reduction to 50 watts.

NEW BUSINESS

R. Bruno discussed the development of a solar cell project. The energy produced could be utilized by the township, while also providing an income potential via environmental credits. The project could be funded through bonds guaranteed by the county. A discussion ensued.

R. Bruno will prepare a proposal for a solar cell project for discussion at the May 2nd EC meeting. D. Hicks will provide R. Bruno contact information at ANJEC for further information.

R. Clew opened the topic of recycling within the township. A general discussion ensued and it was suggested that R. Clew present a report on recycling at the next EC meeting.

HARDING SCHOOL

FROM the Superintendent of Harding Township School, Alex Anemone

“I am amazed at the level of support our school enjoys. Our primary task - educating all of our children - is made exponentially easier because of this support. Multiple studies have shown that involved parents are positively correlated with high-achieving students. As this goes to print, our students will be finishing the final week of NJASK (New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge) testing. Although these tests represent a simple “snapshot” of teaching/learning, we are confident that our students will, as usual, score very highly on these assessments.

“As mentioned last month, our 2012-2013 school budget was approved and we are already beginning preliminary discussions about our 2013-2014 school budget. Although HTS received a small increase in state aid (from approximately \$181,000 to \$225,000), overall, we still receive a small fraction of the money our taxpayers send to Trenton each year. Senator Mike Doherty (R-23) has presented his Fair School Funding plan to various groups in the state. His plan would alter the funding formula (currently favoring urban and inner-ring suburbs) and apply a more even funding plan for all students in all communities. I encourage you to visit his website (<http://doherty.senatenj.com/>) and learn more.”

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Civic Association News and Announcements

Civic Association: The DEADLINES FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL are June 9 and SEPTEMBER 8. The June issue publishes late, as the issue following June is September, which appears after Labor Day. 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: May 12, 26, June 9, 23. Note: the Sept 29 scheduled recycling will be moved to October 6

Commingled Recyclables: consists of all aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles, and only plastic bottles and containers with the Recycling symbol, and #1, #2 #4, #5, and #7. 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 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(2nd Monday)	7:30 PM
Harding Open Space (2 nd Wed)	7:30 PM
Harding Twp Civic Association (3 rd Tues)	7:30 PM
Municipal Court- has merged with Madison NJ Court	