

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

OCTOBER 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE, pages. 5-10

The upcoming General Election on Nov. 6 has major national and local contests, including Township Committee and school board, as well as a NJ ballot question regarding NJ Supreme Court justices' salaries. Voters are therefore asked to help by making their decisions before arriving at the polls. Specifically, mark up your Sample Ballot that's mailed to you and bring it with you. This will minimize voting booth time and help assure the voting process goes smoothly.

THE HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD "MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT", on **Wednesday, October 24 at 7:00pm, Christ the King Church, Blue Mill Rd, New Vernon.** The event will be moderated by the League of Women Voters. This event will end about 9pm. Come, see and listen, to be an informed voter. This is the only event all candidates will attend. We are collecting questions that you would like to ask the candidates. This will give us a the opportunity to make sure we cover the broadest range of topics. Please e-mail your questions to: Questions@hardingcivic.org. Alternatively, you may submit questions in the Library or Town Hall drop boxes. We will be picking up those questions on October 19.

This year we have three Republican and three Independent candidates running for three of the five Township Committee seats. The majority of the Township Committee will be elected this November 6. This will be a first for the Township. Alf Newlin the incumbent Republican will run against Brian McCarthy the Independent challenger for a two year term. Ned Ward the Republican incumbent, Nanette DiTosto a Republican newcomer, and Judy Malloy and Mike Meade both Independents are all vying for one of the two available three year terms. We expect a big turnout for the event and the election. *The Harding Township Civic Association does not endorse any candidate.*

Inside this issue there are the statements provided to Thumbnail by each candidate describing **their qualifications and goals.**

ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WILL HOST A "MEET THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES NIGHT" AT HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL. The event will be held in the Library/Media Center and will begin at 7:30p.m. The Parent Teacher Organization will provide light refreshments. Harding Township residents are encouraged to come out and learn more about the individuals running for the Harding Township Board Of Education. The election will be held on November 6, 2012.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:

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

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

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Where: Fire House, Village Road

When: **Sunday, October 21st** 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.

The Annual Children's Halloween Parade will be held **Tuesday, October 30th at 7PM** at the firehouse on Village Road. All town residents are invited. There will be refreshments and fun for everyone. Prizes will be awarded!

60th Annual Auction

The New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department would like to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to our community, friends and families for their help and support of our Annual Country Auction. This enables us to continue to provide essential services. Since no tax dollars from the town come to the Department, [events like this will continue to keep your tax dollars low](#). We could not do this without you!

The Harding Twig will be hosting its 2012-13 Kick-Off Coffee for new and existing members on **Wednesday, October 24th at 9:00 am at the Kemmerer Library** 19 Blue Mill Road New Vernon, NJ. The Harding Twig, a branch of the Women's Association of Morristown Medical Center, is a group of local women who raise money for the Goryeb Children's Hospital at Morristown Medical Center through various social events and service projects. All are welcome, including children as a story hour will be provided for them by the librarian. For more information, please contact hardingtwig@verizon.net.

CONCERT AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, New Vernon. Harding resident Min Kwon, renowned concert pianist and Rutgers professor of music, will present "Min Kwon and Friends" in concert on **Sunday afternoon, October 28, at 3 pm**. Tickets @ \$20 will benefit CME (Center for Musical Excellence) of which Dr. Kwon is founder and artistic and executive director. For tickets, call Anne Thomas at 973-267-9424.

HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL PTO presents its 2012 annual **Holiday Bazaar & Pancake Breakfast**. Join our Polar Express Party - with lots of hot chocolate, crafts, music and a visit with Santa! **Saturday, Dec. 1st; Pancake Breakfast 9am - 11am** in the school cafeteria; **Holiday Boutique/Party** hours from **9am-2pm**. **Join us for breakfast and great shopping** for unique children's gifts, gifts for the home, fabulous clothing, jewelry, accessories, art, bath & beauty products, toys and more. Come out and support our school! For more information visit www.hardingholidaybazaar.com or contact Sandra Felberg at shillfel@gmail.com.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Harding Township & Morris Township will sponsor a rabies vaccination clinic on **Saturday, November 3, 2012**, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the New Vernon Volunteer Firehouse, 22 Village Road, New Vernon. The immunization clinic is open to dogs and cats. Animals must be on a leash or in a carrier.

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HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL NEWS In November, HTS hosts an "Open House" for families with children presently enrolled in a private school. On **Friday, November 2 from 8:00-10:00am**, parents and their children are welcome to come tour our elementary school as well as our middle school. Come and see first hand our progressive PTO-sponsored Digital Learning Initiative, our HTEF-sponsored TV Studio, our small class size (average class size = 16) and our picturesque 43 acre campus. Families can meet with our administration as well and ask questions pertinent to their own child.

The **Harding Township Educational Foundation** will be holding its annual fundraiser on **Saturday, November 3** at Madison Lanes. Show your support of educational programming at Harding Township School and join us for a casual and fun night of bowling from 7:30 - 10:30. In addition to some friendly ten-pin competition there will be a 50-50 raffle and a wine pull. Tickets are \$62.50 a person. For more information, to make a contribution, or for tickets, contact Katie Boyer at katieboyer@me.com or 908-400-7626 or Pat Romano at promano59@comcast.net.

The **Harding Township Historical Society** will be presenting the **29th Annual Antique Show and Sale from Nov. 2 through Nov. 4**, at the historic Tunis-Ellicks House, Village & Millbrook Roads, New Vernon. The Public Preview Party and Sale, featuring wine and hors d'oeuvres, will be held on Friday evening, November 2nd from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m, the charge is \$35.00 per person; all are welcome. General admission is \$6.00 on Saturday, November 3rd, from 10:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m, and on Sunday, November 4th, from 11:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. This show is run for the benefit of the Society and managed by Dr. David Cowell, Lovely Living Antiques. Many dealers are returning from last year and a few new ones have been added to make for a very interesting show.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: The Harding Township Citizen's Park Advisory Committee (CPAC) is considering the development of a commemorative memorial patio in Memorial Park. This centrally located patio, consisting of individually engraved bricks, would enable donors to honor loved ones and recognize special events while capturing their connection to Harding. The cost of an individual brick would be \$150 and the proceeds would be used to maintain and improve the Township's parks. CPAC would like to gauge community interest in this project and has developed an online survey to solicit feedback from the community. To complete the survey, please go to this website: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F9K5SZH>

THE KEMMERER LIBRARY

New! Sunday Hours: Monday-Friday: 10-5. Saturday: 10-1. Sunday: 12-3. We have lots of great Sunday afternoon programs coming up. Don't forget to check our website.

Clean up after the Great Clean-Up: Saturday, October 20, 2010, 10am to 2pm.

On the Parking Lot Next to the Library

Shred your confidential documents; retrieve your hard drives from old computers, and dispose of your electronic devices with the assistance of a professional security firm and the Harding Department of Public Works. Our professionals will take your boxes from your trunk to the on-site, state-of-the-art shredding equipment for destruction while you watch. \$10 for the first shopping bag, \$5 each for the rest.

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Borrow a preloaded Kindle: The Library offers pre-loaded Kindles on loan for Harding residents. The e-readers come with a wide selection of best-sellers, classic fiction, non-fiction and more.

Children's Programs:Storytime: Tuesdays, 10:30 am. Children aged 1-4 listen to stories, sing songs and do a craft. **Baby Play Group: Thursdays, 10:30 am.** Moms and babies, 4 months-12 months of age, meet to play/chat and sing songs.

Children's Special Events: Legos & Games, Sunday, 10/14, 3pm. Get your creative juices going with the Library's huge Lego collection, or bring a friend or two and enjoy a rousing game of Clue or Twister.

Halloween Party: 10/24, 4pm. Preview your Halloween costume and join us for fun hour of pumpkin painting and spooky games. Treats for everyone!

New! 6th Grade Book Club: The Library is looking for members in our new 6th grade book club. The group will meet twice a month, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. The reading list will be developed in collaboration with Harding Township School language arts teachers, and the meeting format is designed to stimulate the members to read and engage with age appropriate literature. *For more information and registration, please contact the Library.*

New! The Yarn Connection – Knitting Club at the Library. Every other week starting Wednesday, 10/17, 1 pm. For beginners and knitters alike. Taught by experienced hand crafters. This club is for sharing, chatting, inspiring and being inspired, learning how or learning more. *Registration requested, please.*

More Yoga times: Mondays & Wednesdays. Mat Yoga: 10 a.m. Gentle Chair Yoga: 10:45 a.m. Taught by our wonderful MJ Turnbull. All are welcome. A small donation of \$10 per session is suggested.

New! Tea with TED: Sunday, Oct 28, 3-4:30 pm. Millions of people have become hooked on TED Talks online featuring the world's thinkers and artists with "ideas worth spreading". Join us for a monthly afternoon of inspirational and engaging talks followed by tea and a moderated discussion. *Registration required, please.*

Bridge Club: We still welcome members for our fall session. Once again, Norma and Paul Spatz will guide beginning and intermediate players through the intricacies the game. **Mondays, 2-3:30 pm.** Contact the Library to register. Fee applies for the series.

New! MahJongg Club:Thursdays 12-2 pm. Learn to play this hugely entertaining game invented by a Chinese princess 3,000 years ago! Six instructional sessions for beginners and intermediary players taught by experienced local practitioners. Contact the Library to sign up. Fee applies for the series.

Evening Book Group, Wednesday, October 24, at 7:30 pm. October's selection is *Alys, Always* by Harriet Lane. Join us for an engaging discussion. No registration necessary.

The Kemmerer Library Board of Trustees is seeking residents to fill the seats of board members whose terms expire at the end of 2012. The term is a three year commitment. If you have a love of libraries and a vision of their role in the community, we invite you to submit your candidacy. Trustees hire and evaluate a library director, set policy, develop and monitor the annual budget and define goals and strategies for fundraising and community support.

Please submit your resume and statement detailing your interest. Applications must be received by November 1 and interviews will begin shortly thereafter. Applications may be submitted to

kemmererlibrarytrustees@gmail.com.

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HARDING ALLIANCE AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE The mission of Harding Alliance is to provide education and resources to promote healthy decision-making and to avoid substance abuse and risky behaviors. rs! Harding Alliance is piloting mini grants for community service projects, to encourage youth development. Please contact Judy Malloy at Chairperson@HardingAlliance.org or Megan Achenbach at ViceChair@HardingAlliance.org

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STATEMENT OF JUDY MALLOY.

I'm Judy Malloy and together with my running mates, Mike Meade and Brian McCarthy, "Harding Independents" we hope to represent you on the Township Committee.

Local government is about open dialogue and effective delivery of essential services. We've provided a detailed plan to achieve both in our Party Platform. Rigid ideology and single-party politics are obstacles to good ideas and good government; Harding Independents offer you a better choice this election.

You have a right to information that is verifiable and presented in proper context. These elements foster a productive dialogue, effective decision-making and confidence in government. One of the main reasons I am running is my dissatisfaction with poor communication from our leaders.

Maybe it's because of my experience as an auditor, but I like to evaluate an issue inside and out, and from top to bottom. This approach helps me spot inefficiencies, inconsistencies, and potential conflicts of interest. I will bring my analytical abilities to the Township Committee, and I will serve Harding's residents and taxpayers with professionalism and integrity.

It's been a privilege to volunteer as Treasurer, then Chairperson, for Harding Alliance Against Substance Abuse(www.HardingAlliance.org) these past nine years. I enjoy problem solving and the collaborative process, which I've put to good use in service to residents. With Harding Alliance I've demonstrated my ability to work with professionals in town, neighboring towns, and at the county level. And my track record for governance and fiscal responsibility is strong. We've expanded programming, strengthened relationships, and improved communication, while consistently spending under budget.

We value informed decision making, so we've provided detailed information about our positions and background qualifications, to help you perform due diligence for your vote. Our campaign previews our governing style— *our events are open to everyone!* Our dialogue is two-way, not top-down. We've incorporated feedback into our Party Platform and made recommendations to restore accountability to Public Financing of Open Space. These reports can be found on our website, www.OpenAndEffective.com.

Thank you Civic Association. You provide a forum where democracy can flourish. Thank you residents! Your volunteerism makes Harding so special. Thank you taxpayers: good value and accountability are legitimate concerns. Thank you to our opponents; we all benefit from a competition of ideas. *Thank you voters* for your commitment to the political process. Harding Independents will represent **your best interests**.

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Please vote **Harding Independents** by Election Day, November 6.

Sincerely, Judy Malloy CPA

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STATEMENT OF MIKE MEADE:

I'm Mike Meade and I'm running for Township Committee as an Independent candidate.

I was a Harding Township police officer for 37 years, retiring as a lieutenant in 2007. It was a privilege for me to protect and serve the people of this community, and through those years I got to meet and become friends with a lot of Harding's residents. I am very familiar with the town and how it works.

Elyse and I have been residents of Harding for over forty years. Our four children attended the Harding Township School. I coached baseball for several years, attended many basketball, field hockey and soccer games, and loved every minute! I am a veteran of the United States Army, a member of Christ the King Church, a charter member of the New Vernon First Aid Squad, former Chair of the Bayne Park Committee, and currently a member of the Citizens' Park Advisory Committee.

My interest in local government began seven years ago when I started attending Township Committee (TC) meetings. The more meetings I attended, the more questions I had, but whenever I posed a question (and I do ask a lot of questions!), I got very few reasonable answers. When Judy Malloy started attending committee meetings, I was impressed by the questions she asked. We struck up a friendship and found that we both want the same things for Harding: a productive dialogue, efficient delivery of services, and a restored sense of community.

Harding residents deserve a *choice* in their elections. The Republican Party has had monopoly power over candidate selection for years, bringing us to where we are today. We've moved away from conservative values of self-reliance and delivery of core services. The TC *should* be serving residents' best interests, but *that is not what is happening*.

When a third seat became available, we looked for someone with initiative and a willingness to work hard; we were fortunate Brian McCarthy stepped up. With our different abilities and knowledge of the community, we make a strong team. We work well together and we have a lot of new ideas to offer. Check out our website www.OpenAndEffective.com—you won't be disappointed!

It's time to move our town forward. It's time for you to have a choice. I believe we are the right choice. Help us make history—vote Harding Independents on Election Day!

Thank you,

Mike Meade

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STATEMENT OF BRIAN MCCARTHY:

My name is Brian McCarthy and I am running with Harding Independents for Township Committee. I'm a graduate of Madison High School and Lynchburg College in Virginia. I am retired from United Parcel Service, currently work as a contractor for Novartis Pharmaceuticals, and I have my own business, McCarthy Landscape and Design. I am a member of the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary.

Some of the biggest reasons people enjoy living in Harding are the large lots and all of the protected land. I believe in Open Space, but we need to have all future purchases go through a rigorous checklist and be consistent with the Master Plan. We must prevent more disasters like Glen Alpin.

Public Safety has become a huge issue. I believe we are in a crisis, with the increase in stolen cars and burglaries, and the decrease of police officers. Residents of Harding are scared. We currently have nine full-time and one part-time officer on active duty, even though twelve officers are in the current budget. In public meetings before retiring, Chief Gaffney stated on several occasions that 12 or 13 officers would be a reasonable staffing level to protect Harding. Public safety has been mismanaged; the town has spent too much in overtime, and our police force is stressed and demoralized. Something must be done.

As a taxpayer, a small business owner and a retired union worker, I understand different points of view and can be helpful in the negotiation of the new police contract that expires in December.

We must not forget our Senior Citizens. I had the honor to speak with them at one of their meetings. Two Seniors said they were afraid to turn their lights off at night. Is this any way for our Senior Citizens to live?

Our local school should also be supported. A good school system protects home values and attracts families to our town. Maintaining local control of our school system is a top priority.

Although I have my house on the market, I plan to stay in Harding after my house is sold.

I'm a hard working person, and I promise to work just as hard for the taxpayers of Harding Township. We need to restore accountability, communicate better with residents, review management of public safety, improve staff relations and morale, be more fiscally responsible and make Harding a more friendly, family-oriented town.

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Thank you, Brian McCarthy

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STATEMENT OF NANETTE DITOSTO

Harding's core values of municipal independence, low taxes, conservative fiscal management, an entrusted public safety force, and delivery of essential government services, are to be upheld and protected through our Township Committee. If elected, I will guard these core values prevalent in Harding's Master Plan. I respect our rural heritage and support our open space policy without incurring new debt. Harding's long tradition of volunteerism and a competitive and efficient school system are imperative to Harding's character.

As a Republican candidate, I seek to serve our community on the Township Committee based on my experience in municipal governance, volunteerism, business management, finance, and policy. I currently serve residents on the Planning Board, Cell Tower and Citizens' Park Committees, and Environmental Commission. I formerly served on our Historic Preservation Committee and Millburn's Board of Adjustment. Equally active in community groups, I am Co-President of the Harding TWIG benefiting Morristown Hospital and member of the New Vernon Garden Club.

My education includes a BA in Economics from Gettysburg College and MA in Economics from Penn State. Professionally I worked for the US Council for International Business representing views of US business-based multinationals to US and foreign governments, and intergovernmental organizations.

I joined Bankers Trust Company, Electronic Commerce, and defined policy positions on e-commerce information security and privacy issues. Over thirty national Chambers of Commerce elected me to represent their views to an intergovernmental committee (OECD) that developed International Guidelines on Cryptography Policy. I also managed strategic partnerships, oversaw projects, and directed the export licensing program.

I will draw from my business, academic and municipal governance background to perform the governance and executive responsibilities of the Township Committee. I have a proven track record of volunteering and devotion to serving our community. I promise to promote an open and thoughtful dialogue, represent all residents, and ensure a transparent, balanced and responsible approach to governing. I will negotiate all contracts firmly, fairly and objectively. To underscore and expand Harding's volunteers, I support a "volunteer fair" where residents can learn about different volunteer opportunities supporting our town.

My husband and I were married in New Vernon at Church of Christ the King. We have four children, two of whom attend HTS. Enabling them, and the next generation, to enjoy Harding as much as we do everyday is my goal. I would be grateful for your vote on November 6th.

Thank you, Nanette

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STATEMENT OF ALF NEWLIN

Dear Harding Neighbors,

Harding is a wonderful place. Its open spaces, low taxes, responsible government, strong school system, and high citizen involvement make our community unique. This didn't happen by chance. Many citizens worked faithfully and effectively over decades to make today's Harding a reality. Without their contributions, our town could have been a strip mall next to an airport. Thankfully instead of an airport we have a national wildlife refuge. As a Republican Candidate for Township Committee, I seek to uphold this traditional vision of Harding and ask for your vote on November 6th.

My professional background is in business, finance, and technology. I am co-founder and president of an independent financial software company with offices in Jersey City and Beijing. I have 20+ years' experience in management, fixed-income finance, and enterprise computer technologies. I have an MBA from Columbia University, an MS in Computer Science from University of Pennsylvania, and a BA from St. John's College.

My family and I have lived in Harding since 2000. My children attend the Harding Township and Madison Schools. I have served 4 years on the Civic Association, nearly 5 years on the Planning Board (3 as chair), and recently the Township Committee. While serving on these organizations, I have put a high priority on promoting teamwork, productivity, transparency, and respect for open dialogue among colleagues, residents, and professionals. From experience, I know that many good ideas come from civil discussion but personal attacks poison teamwork and productivity.

As your representative, I will:

- Represent all Harding residents, encourage thoughtful discussion, and make fact-based decisions.
- Safeguard Harding's hallmark conservative budget and low tax rates. Under the State's 2% municipal spending cap, financial responsibility is essential to maintain our independence.
- Address tough budget problems and ensure union and non-union contracts are negotiated fairly, firmly, and fully without improper influence from special interests.
- Leverage business experience to enhance the town's delivery of efficient, quality services.
- Use business best practices to promote teamwork and customer service at Town Hall.
- Complete the current comprehensive police department review, objectively evaluate our independent police expert's recommendations, and implement appropriate changes to ensure all our public safety priorities are met effectively, according to current best practices, and within budget.
- Support our Open Space program and ensure its activities meet objective criteria, pass financial due diligence, and bring clear value to residents.

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- Promote our volunteer organizations and help them to recruit new members.

Thank you so much, Alf

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STATEMENT OF NED WARD:

In public meetings I am a listener. I want to know what everyone thinks. I'm a Harding native and have lived here all my life. I feel have a solid understanding of what the majority of the residents want.

As a Realtor since 1960 the most important reason for families wanting to move to Harding was low taxes. I have heard this opinion expressed over and over by home buyers who want to move to a town with a more favorable tax structure. I will do everything in my power to keep this a reality. Five years ago when I was on the Township Committee our debt load was \$16 million; today it has decreased to \$10 million. This is the proper direction to go. We have a duty to our residents to balance our tax revenue with our expenses without taking on more debt.

Harding's grade school has enjoyed a wonderful reputation for as long as I can remember and is also a great reason for families wanting to move to Harding. My brothers and I all attended Harding, as did our children.

I first ran for Township Committeeman in 2006. Harding had recently purchased the Glen Alpin house. This was in my opinion a huge mistake and I am still of that opinion. Six years later and it is still a significant financial drain, not from lack of trying to rid ourselves of this burden. The web of bureaucratic entanglements is unbelievable but we may now be nearing a viable solution to this problem.

Growing up here, Harding was very rural; yet with every town, growth is inevitable. We need to be prudent with our Open Space acquisitions and make wise decisions. Conserving the bulk of the Frelinghuysen estate was a very positive solution for all as it was done with minimal development but most importantly, the taxes derived from the new homes will financially benefit Harding unlike other acquisitions. Harding should not become the purchaser of last resort.

We live in a very safe community; thanks to our dedicated police force we have the lowest crime rate in Morris County. Of great concern to the Township Committee are the false rumors currently being spread that the police department will be merged/consolidated by October. That is simply not true. We have recently hired a consultant to guide us through the maze of rules and regulations regarding every facet of our police department, as we cannot continue in the current path which is unsustainable. There are many communities throughout the U.S. on the brink of bankruptcy due to the extravagant benefit and pension packages of public employees. We must arrive at a balance, which is fair to all including the many residents of our tax-paying township.

These are trying times for all municipalities in that revenues are down and expenses are up. We are doing more with less thanks to all of our hard working employees, especially the D.P.W. We are deeply indebted to all of our Volunteers — The Fire Department, First Aid Squad, library and all those residents that give freely of their time and talents

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serving on the various committees. We would have substantially higher taxes were it not for all of you. God bless you all!

Thank you, Ned

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TOWNSHIP NEWS:

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE – Sept 17, 2012, All Committee members were present

Mayor Bartlett Comments:

Council on Affordable Housing is back in force. A court has overturned Governor Christie's stay of COAH. The Governor's stay had been a powerful relief to municipalities across the state that again must build low-income housing units in their towns. COAH is especially onerous for Harding as land is very expensive.

Asking Trenton for Flexibility on Glen Alpin. After trying unsuccessfully for years to get a tenant for Glen Alpin, the historic house at the corner of Tempe Wick and Rt 202, the TC has decided to ask authorities in Trenton (Historical Trust) for flexibility on what type of entity or business can occupy the property. The TC is hopeful that the hardline has softened as GA and many similar sites around the state are languishing. Trenton has a say because the State provided part of the funding to purchase the property.

Police Department Consolidation – “NOT ON THE TABLE!”The Mayor wanted to clear up misunderstanding and rumors about possible consolidation of HT's Police Department with that of another neighboring town. Bartlett said clearly “consolidation is not on the table.” He distinguished “shared services”, which is the joint operation of a function with another town (such as emergency dispatch, which HT has shared with a few towns for a few years), from “consolidation” which is combining an entire department.

Status Report on Review of Police Department. TC member Alf Newlin delivered a statement (text is on HT website and was reported in The Observer Tribune) on the status of the review of the PD.

The main points of the statement are:

1. HT hired, Ted Ehrenburg, President of Blue Shield Consulting to conduct a review of our PD which at \$2.7mm is the largest part of the budget and has not been review for many years.
2. Ehrenburg priorities are to “review the PD's current staffing and organizational model, identify and deficiencies in resourcing or expertise, and make recommendations regarding best practices. He will help develop efficiency options but not at the expense of public safety.”
3. HT “has not, nor is it currently considering any plan for PD consolidation. The Township has not met with any other town to discuss consolidation. The Township has not even considered whether it is worth any time to analyze such an option.”
4. HT “currently has no plan for new shared services small or large.”
5. Next month negotiations begin over a new contract with the police union.

Benchmarking of Police Department.

Dr Lanzerotti repeated the presentation of the benchmarking slides that were first shown in August. He emphasized that there was no interpretation or slanting of the data and that the TC is trying to treat the employees (and tax payers) fairly, honestly and transparently.

Relative to the group of towns to which HT was compared, HT's...

1. Crime rates for violent and property crime (per 1000 population) were in line with the group.
2. Police Dept cost per road mile was near the low end of the sample,

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3. PD Cost per square mile was the lowest due to the large amount of area in the Swamp and Jockey Hollow,
 4. PD Cost per citizen, at \$650, is the highest,
 5. PD Non-salary costs (aka benefits) per citizen, at \$230, is the highest
 6. Healthcare cost per month per safety officer is about \$3600 (\$43.2K) about double the next highest town,
 7. PD Salary range at the "top step" is near the high end of the range,
 8. PD Salary percentage increase in 2012 was the highest of the sample,
- All but two towns in the sample decreased the size of their force from 2007 to 2012.

Dr Lanzerotti's presentation ended with four more slides that showed disturbing trend in the overall (not just the police) Township budget. The last of the 4 slides was most revealing – showing how pensions and healthcare benefits have increased from 8% of the total in 2000 to 20% in 2012. Versus 2000, these costs are consuming an incremental 12 cents of every tax dollar, taking an ever-greater share of tax revenue. And the forecast is not a happy one as the pension fund, which is managed by the state is grossly underfunded. When combined with a state imposed cap on budget and tax increases of 2%, this is unsustainable.

The public got into the discussion. Lees' Hill Road resident Mark O'Keefe said that benefit costs should be benchmarked against the private sector not just other towns. Citing the most generous and expensive private sector family healthcare plans with a cost of \$26K per year, he termed the HTPD plan at over \$40K "ludicrous" and an "unacceptable mismatch with the private sector." TC member Alf Newlin said that the plan is unsustainable and that they expect to offer more options including more co-pay options in the next contract.

Resident Mike Meade asked if there would be benchmarking at every meeting and questioned if the TC's cost analysis would clash with the work of Blue Shield Consulting. Newlin responded that the consultant will provide expertise on law enforcement operations (see above) while the TC and the HT CFO continue to have responsibility for finances.

Another citizen, Nanette DiTosto voiced support for the benchmarking and said that it was synergistic with the Blue Shield Consulting work, not redundant.

Resident Peter Deeks, expressed further support for the analysis and work of the consultant, he spent 3.5 years in the military where there are annual fitness reports.

Acting Police Chief Mark Giansanti reported on department actions and statistics- senior citizen checks, burglaries (2 in August, 1 in September, 10 in 2012 to date), burglar alarm responses (26) and stops & summons. When asked how many officers he thought were needed he said had a good idea, but wouldn't say now but that he would have an "excellent idea" in about a month. He said all mandatory training is up to date.

Ted Eherenberg, the Blue Shield consultant, said his "first cut" at the department operations suggests "the big issue is scheduling". HTPD uses a so-called 4X12 scheme whereby officers work a block of four 12 hours shifts then have three days off. He also said he has a "good sense" that HT is "well protected".

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Resident Judy Malloy said she hoped the RFP with the consultant looking into resident complaints about speed control on historic roads.

Budget Update Mr. Shah (our part time CFO) and Mr. Ho (our full time financial staffer) presented a detailed "Mid Year Budget Status Update As of 6/30/12)". In summary, the actual results are tracking well to budget.

DPW Parking Lot and Access Road to be Paved. A plan was revealed to pave the DPW access road, the now bumpy gravel road from Millbrook to the DPW gate. The road will be moved slightly and the base course will be done in November and the top coat is slated for the spring. Bids came in this week and an award will be made in October. The funds, about \$1280K, has already been planned for and set aside.

PLANNING BOARD September 24, 2012, Roll Call: Messrs. dePoortere and Schliefer absent.
Announcements/Reports/Presentations

- Ms. DiTosto reported that the Cell Tower Committee had not met since the last meeting, and that Verizon had made an informal inquiry about putting a tower in the DPW area.
- Ms. DiTosto reported that the Environmental Commission has sent a letter to the Zoning Board which commented on issues relating to the cell tower application. It was also looking at potential solar projects, perhaps one at the school.
- Mr. Bartlett commented on the triumph with the Route 202 bridge, and that the DOT did what they said they would do by replacing the bridge in a week's time.
- Ms. Olcott reported that the county planning board was to release a new housing start report covering 2003-2010 which will show 45 single family homes built in Harding during that time.

Courtesy Review

Rusty Schommer and Pat Romano reported, on behalf of the school, on a plan to install two sports courts (one tennis and one multi-sport) on the school property. The courts would be fenced with no lighting and drainage would be addressed with dry wells. There was some discussion about overflow since currently there are drainage issues in the area. Mr. Schommer agreed to work with Mr. Fox on drainage calculations. Other comments referred to the lack of fencing separating the courts, that there were no foot paths shown on the plans, and whether the courts would be available for public use and how that would work. The Board would like to see a letter from the Superintendent and the Board of Education regarding usage by the public.

Application

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: Modification of Approval Condition. Since it is intended that the subdivision will now remain open space, it is proposed that the 13 lots which were previously approved but where there has been no construction, now be converted into two lots. Much of the discussion concerned marking of the property, access to the property, and public safety. There was concern expressed on how the property would be marked to prevent encroachment. Perimeter marking was suggested, but this is not required and additional conservation

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easement markers were discussed. Ultimately, the land trust would be responsible for monitoring encroachment. A representative of the Trust for Public Land said that a recommendation would be made to the Township Committee for access via a trail from Barrett Park. There was also some discussion about the possible need for a cistern for fire safety. All of these concerns as well as maintenance of the farm road for emergency access, the release of any easements at the end of Brook Drive South, and parking arrangements for the use of the property were to be included in a letter to the Township Committee. The Board then reviewed a resolution prepared by Mr. Hall and incorporated recommendations that had been discussed. The resolution was then approved pending approval of funding by the Township Committee.

Discussion

- Mr. Saulnier led a discussion of the Board's proposed 2013 budget which was \$6200 less than 2012. The budget was approved.
- The Board then discussed a proposed amendment to tree conservation zoning regulations which is designed to give homeowners more flexibility to deal with visibility issues along property lines. It was suggested that the amendment be sent to Caron Menger for Shade Tree Committee review. A motion to recommend the amendment to the Township Committee was approved.
- A discussion of a draft ordinance amending building area calculation exemptions for accessory structures was carried to the next meeting.
- The Board briefly discussed a memo from Ms. Kimball suggesting a review of the last examination of the master plan in 2006, what has transpired since then and whether there were any issues to discuss. Discussion was carried to the next meeting.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AGENDA, September 20, 2012.

Pending Applications

1. Application # BOA-22-11; Harding Holdings PM LLC, 679 Mt. Kemble Avenue, Block 27 Lot 2 Zone RR; Amended application requesting (d) variance for density (to allow total of 4 dwelling units on 19.6 acre parcel) and potentially for building height exceeding limit by more than 10% and related "C" variances, subject to subsequent (bifurcated) application for site plan and subdivision approval. Application carried to the October 18, 2012 Board of Adjustment meeting

2. 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, Proceedings limited to potential scheduling of special meeting on October 9, for continued hearing or adjournment to next regular meeting on October 18, 2012.

New application #BOA-07-12, Lisa and Ian MacCallum (Contract Purchasers)

Ruth Palace (Owner); 20 Lindsley Road, Block 51 Lot 3.01, "C" Variance

HOST meeting Sept 12, 2012

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Frelinghuysen Estate – Ms. Bologna informed HOST that the application has been made to the County for Lots 19 and 4.03. The County has a site visit scheduled for October 4, 2012. At the end of November the Land Trust will know what the County will do. Mr. Meade, Resident, asked what is the obligation as a Township if the County does not give us the money. Ms. Somers mentioned that the County separates their funds and they would come from the agricultural fund. Mr. MacCowatt stated that the contract is with the Land Trust and they have a contingency. If the Land Trust does not receive the money, they are not obligated to Lots 19 and 4.03. Ms. Bologna mentioned the contract with the Estate is till March 2014, so we have two years to receive the money from the County.

Primrose Farms Mr. Meade, Resident, asked why would the owners have multiple closings. Ms. Bologna responded that the closing is with the purchasers; Green Acres, the County, TPL, Morris Utilities, Land Trust, and Harding Township. Each provider has their own requirements which need to be met. TPL is purchasing the property from the Duffy's and they will transfer it out to all the parties involved and then transfer it again to the Land Trust and Harding Township.

Gatehouse: Ms. Bologna mentioned that we have previously mentioned the sidewalks at the Gatehouse which need to be repaired. Mr. Lanzerotti mentioned that the sidewalk should be level with the front door so it is ADA accessible. Previously, there was an issue with the vendors. Ms. McKane mentioned that the vendors were not consistent with the project. Ms. Bologna will ask for three quotes. Ms. McKane will email Ms. Bologna the specifications that were previously put together.

Discussion: Ms. Malloy, Resident, asked if Phase II for Primrose has gone before the Township Committee. Mr. MacCowatt stated no but both Phases are being packaged together. Ms. Malloy, Resident, asked about pocket parks and what is HOST's position on this with regard to downtown? Mr. McCowatt mentioned that he was on the Re-development Committee and it was the consensus that the downtown area needed more business opportunities not parks. A brief discussion ensued regarding pocket parks.

Civic Association News and Announcements

Civic Association: The DEADLINES FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL are November 3, and December 7. If you have announcements for early December, send in for November issue, please. Current and past issues of Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are also on our Website: <http://www.hardingcivic.org>. Send questions or comments about Thumbnail to editor, **email address:** hesnaj@verizon.net, or the Harding Township Civic Association, PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976. The Civic Association website, www.hardingcivic.org, is updated frequently; we post events sent to our e-mail address: submissions@hardingcivic.org.

TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

The Hours of operation are every Wednesday from 7AM. to noon (7– 9AM self service); and every other **Sat.: 9AM to noon., Oct 27; Nov 10, 24; Dec 8, 22.**

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

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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.

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DATES TO REMEMBER, meetings as noted.

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| 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 Preservation Comm (1stThursday) | 7:30 PM |
| Board of Health (2 nd Thursday) | 7:30 PM |
| Board of Education (1st and 3rd Monday) | 7:30 PM |
| Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday) | 7:30 PM |
| Township Committee(3 rd Wed) | 7:30 PM |
| Harding Open Space (2 nd Wed) | 7:30 PM |
| Harding Twp Civic Association (2 nd Wed) | 7:30 PM |