

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

THE HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION News:

The November Thumbnail was yet another victim of Hurricane Sandy; this is the first issue since October.

FROM THE HARDING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE: A CALL TO SERVE HARDING: The Township Committee welcomes citizens willing to serve on the Boards, Commissions, and Committees that support the governance of Harding. If you are excited by the possibility of contributing your time and talents to your town, we need to hear from you. Service opportunities (and their meeting times -- usually monthly) are listed on both the Township web site (www.hardingnj.org) and on the Harding Township Civic Association website (www.hardingcivic.org). If you have children who enjoy hockey or ice skating, or are members of the Harding Huskies, consider signing up for the **Citizens Parks Advisory Committee**. And if the natural beauty and architectural history of Harding are your passion, you should know that the **Board of Adjustment, Environmental Commission, Open Space Trust Committee, Shade Tree Advisory Committee, Historic Preservation Commission** and the **Wildlife Management Committee are especially in need of volunteers**. Interested citizens should send a resume to Cindy Phillips, Administrative Assistant, at cphillips@hardingnj.org.

HARDING RESIDENT PARKING IN MADISON

Deputy Mayor Nicolas Platt arranged for Harding Residents to Park (permit free) at 33 Green Village Road in Madison, this is within an easy walk to the NJ Transit train station. According to Platt, cars can be parked overnight because there is no police patrol of this lot. This was a parking lot for the elementary school that Madison is hoping to sell. In the meantime it is available to Harding residents. Call Deputy Mayor Platt at [917 974 9100](tel:9179749100) with any questions.

THE KEMMERER LIBRARY

Winter hours: **Monday-Friday: 10-5. Saturday: 10-1. Sunday: 12-3.**

Emergency Planning: It was a great disappointment that the loss of power from Superstorm Sandy prevented the Library from serving as a haven for our residents as it did following Hurricane Irene. The Library's Board of Trustees wishes to ensure that we will never again have to turn our Township's residents away when they most need information

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2012

services and power, and is therefore collaborating with the Township to install a powerful 150 KW generator that will provide power to both the Library and the Municipal Building. We are grateful to Kim and Noël Foley for their generous gift of generator capacity for the Library. As part of a greater emergency preparedness effort we plan to upgrade and diversify the communications technology options available in the Library, and we look forward to offering free communication technology training for residents. Upcoming sessions will be announced in early 2013.

Tech Thursdays, starting Jan 10. Kick off the New Year learning how to use your new iPad and e-readers. Learn how to download e-books, manage content, install apps, and much more. Beginners and the merely curious are welcome. *Registration required please.*

Borrow a Kindle: The Library offers pre-loaded Kindles on two-week loan for Harding residents. 20 new titles have recently been added to each of our Kindle collection of best-sellers, classic fiction, non-fiction and more.

New! Yarn Circle, alternate Wednesdays, 1-2pm. Join the next class led by two experienced crafters on **December 12**. Join us for conversation, inspiration and instruction by the fireplace. Beginners and experienced knitters welcome.

Tea with TED: Sunday, December 9, January 6, February 3 and March 3, 3-4:30 pm. Millions of people are hooked on TED Talks online featuring the world's thinkers and artists with "ideas worth spreading". Join us for an afternoon of inspirational and engaging lectures followed by tea and a moderated discussion. *Registration required, please.*

Mat Yoga: Mondays at 10:00 am. Gentle Chair Yoga: Mondays & Wednesdays at 10:45-11 am. MJ Turnbull's classes are good for both body and soul. All are welcome. A donation of \$10 per session is suggested.

Evening Book Group, Wednesday, Dec 19, 7:30 pm. December's selection is *Tell the Wolves I'm Home* by Carol Rifka Blunt. Join us for an engaging discussion. No registration necessary.

Movie Matinee: Tuesday, December 11 & January 8, 10:30am. December's selection: *Becoming Jane*, a delightful recreation of the young Jane Austen. January's selection: *The Duchess*, based on the true story of Georgiana Spencer, the scandalous Duchess of Devonshire.

Bridge Club, Mondays 2-3:30 p.m.: Our popular bridge club for beginners and intermediary players continues in 2013. New members welcome.

Mah Jongg Club, Thursdays, 12-2 p.m.: Beginner and intermediary play. New members welcome. Registration and information at the Library.

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2012

Winter 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, 6 months-12 months of age, meet to play/chat and sing songs.

Winter Children's Special Events: Legos & Games, Sundays at 3pm, December 16, January 15, February 17 and March 17. Get your creative juices going with the Library's huge Lego collection, or bring a friend or two and enjoy a rousing game of Risk or Mexican. All other Sundays, drop in between 12-3pm to play games.

Special Event: Holiday Craft Party, Wednesday, December 12, 4 p.m. Make a wonderful winter decoration or holiday gift for a special friend – or your mom! Kindergarten and older. *Registration required please.*

HEALTH DEPARTMENT INFORMATION:

Adult vaccines such as herpes zoster (shingles) and Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) are being offered **free** for people who are **uninsured or whose insurance does not cover the vaccines**. These vaccines are being offered to all Morris County residents. Appointments can be made by calling the Randolph Health Department at 973-537-7118.

THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

BLACK BEARS: Black bears are preparing for winter and are now actively foraging for food. Prevention is the best method for controlling black bear damage. Keep garbage, pet feeding and bird feeding away from wildlife. Black bears should never be fed (Note: in New Jersey, it's illegal to feed black bears, and violators face a penalty of up to \$1,000 for each offense) or approached. If a bear comes into your yard, make the bear aware of your presence. Do not feed the bear! Make sure the bear has an escape route. Yell, bang pots and pans or use an air horn to scare the bear away. Aggressive and non-yielding bears should be reported to the Harding Police Department at (973) 455 0500 or to the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife at (877) 927 6337. It is very important to report these incidents, as the Division will take action only if there is a history.

INCREASED DEER ACTIVITY With the days getting shorter and white-tail deer entering their annual rut, motorists should be especially alert while driving, to avoid collisions with the animals. While deer may cross roads at any time, they are most active during the dawn and dusk hours. If you spot a deer, slow down and pay attention to sudden movement. If the deer does not move, don't go around it. Wait until the road is clear. And if you spot one deer, be alert for additional ones. If you are traveling after dark, use high beams where there is no

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2012

oncoming traffic. High beams will illuminate the eyes of the deer on or near roads and provide better reaction time for a motorist. If it appears you are going to collide with a deer, don't swerve to avoid impact. The animal, being totally unpredictable, may counter-manuever. Brake firmly but stay in your lane. Fatalities are more likely, when a driver swerves to avoid a deer and instead, collides with oncoming traffic or a permanent structure alongside the road. Report any deer-vehicle collision to the Harding Twp. Police Department number is 973-455-0500.

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, and health and school professionals. Please come and let your voice be heard. Our next quarterly meeting is **Wednesday, January 16, 8:30 AM** in the Library/Media Center of Harding Township School.

Year-End Fundraising:

Harding Alliance no longer accepts state grants, and relies on the generosity of local residents, community partners and private foundations, to pursue its mission. Please look for our fundraising solicitation in the Township's year-end mailing. We appreciate any support you can provide, including donations and introductions to local foundations with an overlapping mission to ours.

Book Discussion Group:

By popular demand, Certified Parent Coaches Kathleen McClay and Barbara Thomas will be facilitating an evening session on Chapter One of *NurtureShock, The Inverse Power of Praise*, at **Harding Township School, January 23 at 7 PM**. Please email Judy Malloy, Chairperson@HardingAlliance.org to be included in future book discussion announcements.

Mini Grants: Community Leaders! 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 for further information.

Please register for updates at www.HardingAlliance.org.

From Alex Anemone, Superintendent of Schools, Harding Township School

Happy Holidays! I hope you have all enjoyed a "return to normalcy" after superstorm Sandy. At Harding Township School, things are back as they were before the storm hit. We

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2012

are getting ready for our Holiday Concert (Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00p.m), our winter sports season (boys and girls basketball) as well as our school play - *Fame, Jr.*

Our "open house" returns to HTS on Friday, December 7 and Friday, January 11 - both days from 8:30-10:00am. If you currently live in Harding and have children enrolled in a non-public school, you and your children are invited to attend. Come check out our *HTS-TV Studio*, visit our picturesque 40+ acre campus and observe our renowned *1:1 iPad Digital Learning Initiative* in action.

Also, the Harding Township Board of Education invites residents to attend three meetings to actively participate in completing our **Strategic Plan**. Strategic planning creates a vision of the future and identifies goals and strategies necessary to move the district forward and meet the challenges of the 21st century. On January 23, February 27 and March 20, the BOE will be conducting meetings in the Harding Township School Library/Media Center from 7:30-9:00p.m. All Harding residents are encouraged to attend.

TOWNSHIP NEWS:

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE– Regular Meeting October 9, 2012

All TC members were in attendance.

Sheriff Presents His Capabilities -- Assistance to Harding

At the request of the TC, Morris County Sheriff Edward Rochford presented the capabilities of his office. A short video surveyed the various departments that make up the Sheriff's office – Crime Scene specialists, K-9 unit, Search & Rescue, Emergency Service Unit, Bomb, Warrant Squad, etc. The budget is \$42.4mm with 85 officers (down from 107). The Sheriff said his office will aid Harding from everything from criminal mischief to homicide, though "Harding is not a hot bed of crime". The Sheriff department does forensic investigation for crimes but their help is temporary. The Sheriff's department was called upon ten times in 2011 and ten times in 2012 to date.

Regarding the James Bond burglary gang (so called because the gang had used reversible license plates just like Agent 007 in Goldfinger movie), the Sheriff said "a huge police department can't stop" them because there are too fast and professional. The team is usually 3 men, they rip out the alarm panel and are in and out of the house within 2-3 minutes before the central station can even call the dispatch. He recommended the "basics" – leaving lights on, using alarm, stop newspaper and mail delivery and arrange for grass to be cut and snow to be plowed when away.

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2012

Like all public services, he said his biggest challenge is money – 2% spending cap. He also expressed his opinion that the Highlands Act (open space preservation) impacts the growth of ratable base and therefore revenues to the county.

School Building Sports Courts – Will Be Available to General Public

The HT school superintendent announced to the TC that the Harding Township Recreation Association and the HT Education Association are financing the construction of two new sports courts – for tennis and multi-purpose. There will be no lighting, but they will be available for public usage after houses and on weekends.

Construction Permitting Process – Did the Changes Work? Yes!

Recall that in the bad old days, before the permitting process was analyzed and improved, it was (1) a source of frequent complaints and finger pointing about delays and (2) a money loser – the fees charged didn't even cover the expenses so residents were subsidizing new construction applications.

Township Committeeman Nic Platt, who with Ned Ward oversaw the review, made a presentation on how the process was analyzed and modified and the results that were achieved. The review began in May of 2011 and covered all employees, both full and part time, who are involved in the permitting process – Health Department (for septic systems), Zoning and Construction. The team adopted a “best practices” approach from industry which basically means to unabashedly adopt any methods used by another town that look like an improvement.

Here is the situation before the changes and after...

BEFORE:

1. Incomplete Applications were allowed to be submitted
2. Fee was paid when permit was granted.
3. Application were reviewed by 3 departments SEQUENTIALLY
4. No computer tracking of applications or “count down clock”
5. Operation ran at a LOSS subsidized by all property owners.

AFTER:

1. Only COMPLETE Application are accepted
2. Fee is paid UP FRONT when application is submitted
3. Applications are reviewed CONCURRENTLY by Zoning, Engineering, Health
4. Applications are logged and “clock” shows estimated time to complete.
5. Operation runs at just above breakeven with no subsidy by tax payers.

The construction permitting process lost just over \$150K in 2009, which granted was a very weak year for new construction. So fees, which hadn't been raised for years, were

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2012

substantially raised in 2010 for homes over 5,000 sf. This eliminated the loss, but it was clear that to justify the higher fees, service would have to be dramatically improved. Complaints were frequent and finger pointing between contractors, home owners, and township personnel were rampant. An important change was to make sure that homeowners (both spouses if possible) are included on all email correspondence thus ensuring that a contractor can't unfairly blame HT people for delays.

The results appear to be that rarest of outcomes – an unqualified success. (1) Complaints are nearly non-existent. In fact, Scandia, a contractor came to a meeting several months ago to praise the new system. (2) Processing time is way down to approximately 10 days from about 30 (3 times 10 days). And (3) the department is no longer a drain on the public fisc.

Primrose Farm Open Space – Introduction of Ordinance Passed Unanimously. The ordinance will have a public hearing in November. This \$9.1mm purchase (in tow phases) will be financed by a combination of Harding Township Land Trust Green Acres funds (\$720K), Harding Township Green Acres (\$1.30mm), HT Open Space Trust fund (\$1.1mm), Trust for Public Land Green Acres (\$290K), Morris County Open Space Trust fund (\$5.1mm), Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (\$400K) and Great Swamp Green Acres (\$200K).

POSTMORTEM ON HURRICANE SANDY - MEETING (11/19/12)

All TC Members attending; Next Meetings: 12/10 and 1/7/13 (Re-organization)

Mayor Bartlett commended and thanked all the Township employees and volunteers whole helped residents and each other. He cited “volunteerism at its highest level” which showed the “true spirit of Harding”. Millions of dollars of damage was done, but thankfully no one was killed. Special recognition was made to the Township leadership Gail McKane (administrator), Mark Giansanti (police dept office in charge), Gary Annabel (Health Department) and Tracy Toribio (DPW) for effectively handling many situations for which there was “no blueprint”.

Mrs. McKane was able to get Madison Township electrical line crews to restore power on Post House Road, a particularly impacted area. Green Village and New Vernon Fire Departments and EMTs did a great job and the Harding PD checked on residents to ensure their safety. Christ the King Church and its pastor Fr Paddy turned their building into a warming and community center. Hal Scoff volunteered his property for debris collection and Mr. Damiano opened his Gulf station to provide gasoline for emergency vehicles.

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2012

Mayor Barlett thanked the Mayor of Madison who was “very helpful” to Harding and ex-Governor Cody and Congressman Frelinghuysen. The Mayor, reflecting many residents’ views, cited the utility linemen who came from as far as the mid-west. In fact crews from over 42 states came to New Jersey. About 200-300 linemen were working in Harding.

But, in general the performance of JCP&L was thought to still be inadequate especially as regards accurate and specific information about restoration of service. The big conference calls with the power company were frustratingly general and the specific information was often inaccurate. Eventually, with the help of Congressman Frelinghuysen, the Township got connected with a JCP&L executive who had accurate detailed information.

Township Administrator Gail McKane added her thank you to residents who called to help and “offer goodies”. She mentioned the voting volunteers who opened and staffed our polls on Election Day with no problem. As well she cited the School, Library and Civic Association for sending email blasts to residents with the latest information.

As of November 19 all power was restored though Verizon services are not. Verizon is taking the opportunity to replace copper lines with fiber optic cable.

Police Department Officer in Charge, Mark Giansanti, said that over 1000 trees and 150 utility poles were knocked over. The Office of Emergency Management met three days before the storm to plan a response. It took one full day to make all HT roads minimally passable due to the damage of this our third “Storm of the Century” in two years. Within 2-3 days emergency vehicles could reach 100% of Harding homes. Utility repair crews first went to the Jersey Shore and south where the devastation was greater possibly accounting for the seeming delay in more rural areas. The OEM will write an after action report and present that to the Township Committee. There is no precise accounting yet of the number of homes damaged, but Officer Giansanti estimated 25 in the Post House Road area alone and estimated that 10 homes in Harding had trees fall and actually penetrate the house.

Upgrades to the backup power and communication system at Kirby Town Hall and Kemmerer Library are underway now so these two building be more supportive in future outages.

Costs related to Sandy are estimated at \$246K. This will hit the 2013 Budget and are not subject to the State mandated 2% spending increase cap. This figure covers tree & brush removal (\$130K), Overtime for police and DPW (\$40.5K), installation of generator at Library (\$38K –will be 100% reimbursed by the Library), gasoline (\$7K), generator rental (\$8K) and other items (\$28.5K). Hurricanes cost a lot! Suggestions and Comments can be sent to sandy@hardingnj.org

Primrose Preserve – Public Hearing and Final Vote.

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2012

The purchase of this property for \$9.1mm (\$1.1 from Harding Open Space Trust funds ; balance from public sources) was approved unanimously. TC member Lou Lanzerotti said he was once skeptical with the deal but after extensive due diligence on the valuation and the financial arrangement he was “now comfortable”.

Transfer of Funds within Budget

It's sometimes interesting to see intra budget funds transfers (by statute these require TC approval) because they indicate line items that are out of whack with predictions – above or below. In this case, the Township has saved almost \$85K from a modification to the Police health insurance plan while there were overruns in legal expenses (\$45K), roads (\$20K) and various others (\$20K). The overrun in legal expenses relates to the continuing actions to defend against Mr. Huff of Tempe Wick Road. In total this has cost Harding taxpayers significantly over \$200K, an amount greater than the annual cost of a policeman.

PBA Contract Negotiator Hired

A contract was approved for a maximum of \$4200, to Blue Shield Consulting (Ted Ehrenburg) to assist HT with its negotiation with the PBA. Blue Shield is the same firm and individual that was hired to analyze procedures and staffing within the department. Citizen Mike Meade criticized the contract saying it was an unnecessary expense and said that it is obvious where the HT PBA contract is “out of whack with other towns”. In response, TC member Lou Lanzerotti said that getting expert help was reasonable given (1) the size of the contract (the single biggest expense for the Township) and (2) that the Township has sent notice from a PBA rep in Trenton, not a local. Both Nic Platt and Ned Ward concurred with Lanzerotti that the negotiation will require professional help on the side of the taxpayer just as the PBA has.

Rejected Bid for DPW Parking Lot & Driveway Work.

A single bid of \$250K was received for the work at the DPW parking lot and road behind the post office and Tunis Ellicks House. Given that the estimate was \$181K, the bid was rejected. The short notice and demand that the job be done immediately was the cause of the poor response. This will likely cause this job to be delayed, possibly until the spring.

PLANNING BOARD November meeting cancelled

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT Meeting, October 19

The Board voted to grant a variance for the construction of four residences on the Hurstmont property. The favorable vote granting the variance was conditioned on there being no material change in the structures, their location or the lot lines. Mr. Dorn's

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2012

application was then carried to the next meeting for a review of the other variances requested, primarily height and setback, so that the Board could consider other applicants.

Except for Jack Olcott, who voted no, the remainder of the Board voted in favor of the granting of the variance. Both the Town Engineer and Attorney made comments that would have been deemed favorable to the granting of the variance. The only objections from the public came from the EC and HOST. The primary basis for the decision were maintenance of control of the site's development (the developer could have built three residences without any variances being necessary) and the small amount of the shortfall in acreage.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT Agenda, November 15

Resolutions of Approval

Application #BOA-08-12, Joseph R / Jennifer D. Schmuckler, 71 Sand Spring Road, Block 21 Lot 2.01

Application #BOA-09-12, Juan and Maria Andrade, 220 Blue Mill Road, Block 9 Lot 6.02

Application # BOA-22-11, Harding Holdings PM LLC, 679 Mt. Kemble Avenue, Block 27 Lot 2 Zone RR; Grant of (d) variance for residential density, subject to other variances and subdivision approval.

Extension of Time

Application # BOA-11-11, Keith and Christina Lam, 53 Blue Mill Road, Block 19 Lot 11, Extension of Time for previously approved Use Variance

Pending Applications

Application # BOA-22-11, Harding Holdings PM LLC, 679 Mt. Kemble Avenue, Block 27 Lot 2 Zone RR; Amended application requesting (d) variances for potential building height exceeding limit, by more than 10% and related "c" variances, subject to subsequent (bifurcated) application for subdivision approval.

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 – amended application. Proceedings limited to scheduling of Site Inspection.

Application #BOA-10-12, Robert Szerlip (Contract Purchaser), Dean and Vivian Stephan (Property Owners), 229 Blue Mill Road, Block 4 Lot 4; "c" and "d" Variances requested. Application carried to the December 20, 2012 meeting per request of Applicant .

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2012

Application #BOA-11-12, Gerald and Miriam Scully, 44 Red Gate Road, Block 4 Lot 15.01, "c" Variances requested

FROM THE OBSERVER-TRIBUNE

"The freeholders have approved funding for nine open space projects, and the non-profit Harding Land Trust will be receiving the biggest chunk of the \$4.4 million to be awarded. The largest grant award, \$2,075,000, will go to the Harding Land Trust for the purchase of 43.5 acres of property in Harding and Morris townships known as Frelinghuysen Fields-2.

"The property, southeast of Harter Road and James Street, consists of wooded wetlands surrounded by crop and pastureland, and will be used for passive recreation. "Two tributaries that flow into the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge traverse the property, which is also a critical habitat for endangered species," said Morris County Open Space Trust Fund Committee Chairman Greg Poff. "By acquiring the land, the Harding Land Trust will be building upon already preserved property in the area, with the potential to extend walking trails to those adjacent preserved lands." According to the description of the property provided in the application made by the Land Trust:

"Located southeast of Harter Road and James Street, this property consists of deciduous wooded wetlands surrounded by crop and pastureland. The lands provide critical habitat for threatened and endangered species and are traversed by Silver Brook and Great Brook, two tributaries that flow into the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The property will be used for passive recreation with potential walking trail extensions to adjacent preserved lands. Acquisition builds upon preserved lands in the region, including adjacent properties preserved with county open space funds."

Tina Bologna, executive director of the Harding Land Trust, said the Trust is thrilled to receive the county grant. "We requested \$3.6 million, and we are getting \$2.1 million. We are very happy, considering that what we are getting is about half of the total the county had to distribute," she said. Bologna said there are two lots included in the application- one is about 43 acres and the second is about 3 acres- and this grant will provide most of the funding for the larger purchase. "We are now only about \$200,000 short of the purchase price for the larger purchase. We are close. We will now reach out to other funding partners to see if we can raise a bit more," she said.

"The second parcel, she said, is only about 3.5 acres and is adjacent to a parcel the township purchased recently along James Street and Sand Spring Lane. "The town bought

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2012

half of the field, and we included the second half in our application. We will pursue funding for that project at a later time. We still have a chance to obtain it. It's under contract for a year," she said. When viewed from the roadway, Bologna said the 43 acres are all field, and are wooded in the rear. "There are stream corridors for Silver and Great Brook on the property, and the property is a habitat for many endangered species," she said. "We are very happy. It was a big reach for Morris County, since it was half of the funds they had to distribute this year. It's an important piece for Morris County, and it will have a big environmental impact," she said."

Civic Association News and Announcements

Civic Association: The DEADLINES FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL are **January 4 and February 1**. 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., Dec. 22.**

Commingled Recyclables: consists of all aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles, and only plastic bottles and containers with the Recycling symbol #1 #2, and 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.

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2012

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 Preservation Comm (1 st Thursday)	7:30 PM
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	7:30 PM
Board of Education (1 st and 3 rd 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