

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

JUNE 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

From the Civic Association:

Township Committee member incumbent Nic Platt was the winner in the June 4 Republican primary election; he received 513 votes, while his opponent, Judy Malloy, received 233 votes with about 48 percent of the town's registered Republican voters casting ballots. Although the total number of registered voters in Harding is 3,164, this includes 1,478 Republicans, 459 Democrats and 1,227 Independents. There were no Democratic candidates. Malloy ran unsuccessfully last year as an independent candidate for the Township Committee. Platt, who has served on the committee since 2008, faces no Democratic challenger in the November general election.

Hal Scaff was named the Harding Township Civic Association's Distinguished Citizen Award during Memorial Day activities Monday morning. Scaff, who owns a farm on Lee's Hill Road, let the township use the property for its huge mulching operation after Superstorm Sandy last October, saving the township thousands of dollars. Hal Scaff has lived in Harding his entire life. The Scaff Family Farm of 99 acres on Lees Hill Road is one of the last large land holdings from the agricultural era of this town, currently in hay production. The family preserved 96 acres in perpetuity in 2007 under the Morris County Agricultural Development Board program. The Scaff family also participates in the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) further illustrating their dedication to good stewardship.

The winners of the annual essay contest were read by the respective winners: Orla Maxwell, for grades 1-2, Francesca Forgione for grades 3-4; Elizabeth Settle, for grades 5-6; and Emma Shipley for grades 7-8.

Citizens Parks Advisory Committee (CPAC)

CPAC wishes to thank the boys and leaders of Harding's Third Grade Cub Scout Pack 43, Bear Den, for making new signs for Bayne Park to remind visitors not to feed wildlife. Feeding waterfowl encourages them to stay where they aren't wanted, is poor nutrition for wild birds and can cause birds to become aggressive as they seek more food from people. The new signs will supplement those now in place at the Park. Thank You Pack 43! We also take this opportunity to let you know that CPAC is looking for a volunteer to help install and monitor a recycling program for fishing line in Bayne Park, under an already established national program. Discarded fishing line, which is dangerous to birds and aquatic life, is too often found in the Park. Placement of small specialized recycling containers should help. For further information please call (973) 267-5673 or email r.a.shields@att.net.

Kemmerer Library

July-August operating hours: Monday-Friday: 10-5. Saturday: 10-1. Sunday: Closed.

Summer Programs for Children: Summer Reading: June 17-August 31. This year's theme, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*, celebrates far-flung destinations and the joy of travel – both real and virtual. Sign up any time, read great books from our reading list, and join Miss Jen for weekly activities with an international flair. Win reading prizes throughout the summer. Grand prize winner – 1 iPad Mini – to be selected at our end-of-summer party Saturday, September 7! **Weekly programs: Tuesdays:** Story Time 10:30 a.m., Dress Up Photo Day all day. **Wednesdays:** Pre-K Playgroup 11:00 a.m., Drop-In Craft all day. **Thursdays:** Treats from all over the world.

New! Summer Movies for Adults: Alternate Tuesdays 7:30 p.m. and Thursdays 11:00 a.m. Starting with *The Quartet* featuring the inimitable Maggie Smith as an aging diva recapturing the performance of a lifetime, **June 25**. For a complete schedule of films, check our website or take a program at the Library.

Evening Book Group, Wednesdays July 25 and August 28, 7:30 pm. Summer is the best time for great reading! Enjoy spirited conversation and light refreshments in the great reading room. July's selection is *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes, a beautifully written and thought-provoking novel about a

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young paraplegic and his caregiver. August's title is The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, a poignant and sometimes funny story about a retiree who surprises himself by walking from Devon to Yorkshire in order to save an old friend. Both titles are available on our Book Club Kindles.

iPad Club: Meeting dates and times in July and August TBD. Please contact the Library or check our website for more information.

Travel with Library Kindle: The Library offers Kindles with 50+ pre-loaded books on two-week loan for Harding residents. New titles are added regularly and include a collection of best-sellers, classic fiction, non-fiction, and more.

MahJongg, Bridge: No classes in July and August, but social players are welcome any time during operating hours. Just check in with the Circulation Desk.

Yarn Circle Knitting Club: Is taking a summer break in July and August. We look forward to happy stitching in September.

Yoga: No classes in July and August. Come back and join MJ Turnbull in the fall.

New! Music at Your Library: A generous resident has donated her lovely piano to the Library. Piano students are welcome to come practice – but register first with the Librarian, please. A Library Caroling Choir is in formation. If you are interested, please inquire at the Library.

Looking for a way to support the Library? We never underestimate the ingenuity and generosity of our patrons: the Library is the beneficiary of new magazine titles as our patrons renew their subscriptions with 2-for-1 gift offers. Stop by for a satisfying read and please consider designating the Library as your gift recipient of magazine subscriptions.

HARDING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

All hunters registered or interested in operating in the Township are invited to attend the Hunter Workshop on **Thursday, August 29, at 6 p.m.** in the Municipal Building. As in the past, we have invited a representative from the NJ Fish and Wildlife Service to attend the meeting and bring us up to date on the latest status of hunting rules and regulations. The meeting also provides an opportunity for hunters to exchange information and to discuss steps, which could be taken to organize hunting activities in the township. **The township seeks this information to help ensure public safety, and to assure that only qualified hunters operate in the township.** There is a registration form available in Kirby Hall information for the coming season, and this is due by **August 22, 2013.**

The information is needed for three purposes:

1. To enable the police to identify the vehicles of our qualified hunters that may be parking along township roads while they are hunting.
2. To enable the Wildlife Management Committee to coordinate access to Township-owned property for hunting activities.
3. To match hunters with property owners interested in opening their properties to hunting activities.

The registration is voluntary for people hunting with permission on private property. Registration (complete with copies of the Conservation ID Card and the Insurance Declaration Page) is **mandatory** for hunting with township permission on township-owned property.

TOWNSHIP NEWS: Township Committee Meeting - June 10, 2013

All Committee members present.

A new attorney was appointed for the Township - Mark Roselli, Esq. - after a formal Request for Proposal. According to his website, Roselli "focuses his practice upon municipal law, government representation and land use. He has served, and continues to serve, as municipal attorney, planning board attorney and special counsel for municipalities in multiple counties in the State of New Jersey."

The **Capital Plan ordinance was passed** unanimously. Full details have been reported in prior Thumbnails – see www.hardingcivic.org. As well the plan is available on the Township's website.

Three items on the June Bill List were questioned by citizen, Mike Meade. (1) two very old bills, totaling \$9500 for the Harding Land Trust from March 2005 and September 2011. The bills were legitimate but it was unclear why these were so late being paid. A representative present from the HLT said the bills were presented to Township administration for payment a while ago. (2) \$1500 bill for an historical plaque on Glen Alpin site. Apparently the plaque had to be installed to receive \$250K in grant

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funds. (3) \$8900 for NJ Professional Management, a consultant to assist the acting chief of police to review department policies and procedures.

Citizens' Parks Advisory Committee "Rebuilding". CPAC proposes that its members be assigned to represent each one of Harding's four parks. At the April meeting Roberta Shields was appointed as a CPAC member and to be the "point person" for Bayne Park, based on her long history of helping control the geese there. At this meeting, the Township Committee appointed Emilio Egea and Mare Olsen to CPAC to oversee Barrett Field and Show Grounds respectively. Mr. Egea is heavily involved with the youth baseball and Mrs. Olsen is a long-time volunteer of the Bridal Path Association.

Driveway to DPW and Recycling Center to get LEDs. The weather has disrupted the work going on to relocate (slightly) the driveway and parking lot at this site. But another \$4400 was added to the budget for LED lights (as opposed to the originally specified arc lamps). Over the long run, this new technology will save money in energy and maintenance costs.

Gift from Margetts - \$10,000. The Margetts family donated \$10,000 to help maintain Margett's Field, perhaps Harding's finest piece of open space, located on the top of Blue Mill Road. It was also noted that the loan to purchase the property is to be fully paid down this year.

Gracious Comments. Both Judy Malloy and her campaign manager Mike Meade congratulated Nic Platt on winning the recent Republican Primary.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, May 16, 2013 meeting agenda

Pending Application

Application # BOA-22-11
Harding Holdings PM LLC
679 Mt. Kemble Avenue, Block 27 Lot 2 Zone RR
Preliminary and Final Major Subdivision

Application #BOA-03-13
Eric and Christine Lundberg
7 Orchard Drive, Block 17 Lot 29
(c) Variance to allow construction of a detached garage
1 Month Adjournment request by property owner to the June 20, 2013 meeting
with no further requirement to notice.

New Applications

Application #BOA-09-13
Lisa Della Pelle
150 Sand Spring Road, Block 23 Lot 14
(c) Variance to allow construction of a detached garage

Application #BOA-07-13
James Hughes and Holly Stewart
227 Blue Mill Road, Block 4 Lot 28
(C) Expansion of the existing non-conforming residence

Application #BOA-08-13
Deborah Adamo
17 Blackwell Avenue, Block 23.02 Lot 7
Construction of a single family dwelling

Application #BOA-10-13
Peter and Vanessa Larsen
110 Sand Spring Road Block 23 Lot 10
Expansion of the existing non-conforming residence

Update: T-Mobile has filed revised plans that show a relocation and size reduction of the proposed cell tower and equipment compound. The application will be listed on the June 20th Agenda. The Board of Adjustment Attorney will advise at the meeting that the Board has the discretion to determine whether the

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changes are sufficient to warrant consideration of the revised proposal. If such a determination is made, then the Board can reopen the public hearing, hear testimony on the changes and allow new public comment. The revised plan is available for public viewing by visiting Town Hall.

PLANNING BOARD MEETING MAY 20, 2013

Roll Call: Mr. Edgar absent.

Announcements/Reports/Presentations

- Mr. Saulnier reported that the re-examination report was finished and filed with the county.
- Mr. de Poortere reported that Historic Preservation had met with the Advisory Review Committee, and that the demolition delay ordinance would be reviewed by the ARC.
- Ms. Moriarty, reporting for HOST, indicated that the GSWA had made a path from Barrett Field into the Primrose property. She also reported that Tom MacCowatt of HOST was looking at what property in Harding is available to be preserved. Ms. Kimball suggested looking at private undeveloped land and what is not developable due to environmental constraints, etc. This remainder could be the target for preservation.
- Ms. Olcott reported that the ARC was looking at the demolition delay ordinance and will meet with Historic Preservation's co-chairs in June to discuss.
- Mr. Schliefer reported that the Board of Adjustment rejected the cell tower application, but approved the Hurstmont resolution for Harding Holdings.

Applications

PB-01-13, **Applicant The Estate of Peter Frelinghuysen**, Block 22, Lots 3, 3.01, 3.02, 3.03, 4.01, 4.02 and 4.03, Sand Spring Lane and James Street, Amended Preliminary and Final Major Subdivision/Variance Approval. Mr. Saulnier pointed out that the escrow needed to be replenished and that fees for lots and variances needed to be figured out and followed up on. The Board then approved acceptance of the application with waivers for a soil erosion and sediment control plan, a field survey, and a landscape plan. The applicant is seeking modifications to the previous plan due to changing circumstances (the Frelinghuysen will says Lot 4.01 is not to be developed, Lot 4.03 is being acquired by the Harding Land Trust, Lot 4.04 was acquired by the Township, and so on). These changes result in a change in access requirements for the development. For example, the Singing Wood Lane cul de sac providing access to five lots is no longer needed since at least three of the lots won't be developed. In addition to slight reconfiguration of some lots, the applicant's revised plan included five driveway cuts on Sand Spring which the Board thought was too excessive. The Board granted the applicant an recess to discuss an alternate plan and a revised plan with three access points was presented after the recess (one for Lot 3, one for Lot 3.01, and one for Lots 3.02, 4.02, and 4.03). The Board gave its tentative approval of the revised proposal (resolution to be approved at the next meeting) pending the submission of a new map.

MORE ON GLEN ALPINE From the Observer Tribune, by MIKE CONDON

The township-owned Glen Alpin mansion has been saddled with the dubious distinction of being one of the "10 Most Endangered Historic Places" in the state. In recognition of National Preservation Month, Preservation New Jersey, Inc. (PNJ) late last month named its annual list of the "10 Most Endangered Historic Places." The program, according to PNJ, "spotlights irreplaceable historic, architectural, cultural and archeological resources in New Jersey that are in imminent danger of being lost." Unique this year, the list includes 11 entries: 10 places, and one issue that endangers historic resources statewide: a lack of funding. Glen Alpin, located at 685 Mount Kemble Ave. at Tempe Wick Road, is described on the list as a "Gothic Revival mansion threatened by a political stalemate and the outstanding need for a sustainable use."

The township purchased the mansion and the six acres that came with it nine years ago. Since then, however, township officials have considered themselves saddled with an albatross that continually drains financial resources and one for which an acceptable use remains elusive.

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Township Committeeman Ned Ward, however, took exception to the description of Glen Alpin as being “threatened by a political stalemate.” Quite the contrary, Ward said, the township has made every single attempt it possibly could to find a sustainable use and/or a tenant for the dilapidated mansion. “There is no political stalemate, at least within the township,” Ward said. “It’s the bureaucracy of the state that is causing most of our problems with Glen Alpin,” Ward said.

“I have been working on this, with others, for two or three years, and I have to say that honestly, it’s a mess,” Ward said. He said that although there are interested parties, and have been, the uses are always deemed “inconsistent” to the historical value of the mansion. The word “no” has been heard from many a state agency, historical entities, and the Glen Alpin Conservancy.

“There have been many times that I think I’m almost there, and then it gets knocked down, and I’m a mile away again,” he said. Interested tenants have wanted to add additions, construct a restaurant in the building and, among other things, use it as a wedding and banquet hall.

Because state Green Acres grant money was involved with the purchase of the adjacent property surrounding the mansion, however, there are always roadblocks. “Many times, I have felt like just going down to Trenton, handing them the keys and telling them to have fun with it,” Ward said. “There is no such thing as a free grant. There are always strings attached. It’s frustrating, but there is no political stalemate on our end,” he said. “When I owned my own business, I went straight ahead. If I wanted to go left, I went left. If I wanted to go right, I went right. But we can’t do that here,” Ward, a Realtor, said. “There are all kinds of little attachments and strings. It’s like we’re in a Gordian knot, and I don’t know how to get us out of it,” Ward said.

“We already put a \$1 million roof on the place. We put in a new septic, and we are really trying to find a sustainable use, but the state continually says no, because state money is involved. They control the land, because Green Acres funds were used to buy the land,” Ward said. “There is interest in it. And there has been interest in it. I’d love to say that we are only a minute away, but we’re not. I can say that we are further along than we have ever been before, but what does that mean? Nothing,” Ward said.

Barbara Brennan is a member of the Glen Alpin Conservancy, and she commented, “On a personal level, I’m not surprised as nothing has happened with the building. The conservancy is actively trying to find a tenant or someone that would be willing to pay for using the building,” she said. “I have heard there was a possibility of another RFP (request for proposal) being put out by the town, but it does not seem to be on the top of the priority list at the moment,” she said.

Other “endangered properties” listed on the PNJ site include the Morris Canal Rockaway River Aqueduct, Diamond Spring Road, Denville Township and the Valley Road School, 369 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, Mercer County. Also included are the Benjamin Cooper House in Camden, the Building 7 in the deserted village of Feltsville in Berkeley Heights, the Collins House in Bloomfield Township, the Green Hotel in Woodbury, the Jacob Vanderbeck Jr. House in Fairlawn and the Layton Farmstead in Wall Township.

HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

Highlights - Board of Education Meeting – 7:30pm, Monday, May 20, 2013

The focus of this meeting was a presentation of newly edited and revised curricula which highlighted changes from the previous year. The areas covered were:

1. Social Studies – new textbooks will be used with the material also online, thereby allowing access through the student’s iPad and home computer.
2. World Language French & Spanish – Revisions have been made to bring the curriculum more in line with that of the Madison schools
3. Quest – An overview was presented which showed how the topics were formulated, indicating a lot of flexibility to address the interests of the students in the program. (The Quest program is Harding Township School’s Gifted and Talented program.)
4. Visual Art – For the older students, emphasis is placed on the student connecting the art to the artist and his time to show how the visual arts have been an engine for social change.
5. Health & Physical Education – The Health portion of the curriculum will utilize a new textbook which is online only. Aside from a general overview, mention of becoming acquainted with

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lifetime sports was made with the addition of golf & tennis. There was also a grant sponsored by the New York Jets football team, which practices in Florham Park.

6. Music Program – There are a variety of activities available for students such as band, dance and theater. All, however, will learn to read simple music, compose a simple, short tune, and learn to play a recorder (a flute-like instrument).

A parent in attendance asked if the younger children can be taught how to deal with social media (such as cyber-bullying and inappropriate websites) now that every student has been issued an iPad. The Board and the teachers present agreed to look into the matter.

A power surge occurred a couple weeks ago which did considerable damage to the control circuits for the Heating/Air Conditioning system and computer equipment. The estimated cost is between \$50K - \$100K and will be covered by insurance. HTS officials are working with various companies to assess the damage and replace and/or repair items no longer functional.

A Federal grant has been received for the upgrade of the schools Wi-Fi network. The grant will cover \$32K of the \$38K total, with the school paying the remaining \$6K.

Enrichment field trips incur two costs – that of the event itself, for which the parents of the student pays, and the transportation cost which has been paid by the school. The Board discussed whether or not the parents should be asked to pay part of the transportation cost – perhaps \$5/event. After a while the item was tabled for further discussion later.

Highlights - Board of Education Meeting – 7:30pm, Monday, June 3, 2013

The Board discussed that, in light of the many different testing programs now in place, an effort needs to be made to inform the parents how to interpret these test results and how these results should/could be used.

One HIB (Harassment Intimidation and Bullying) incident was reported during the last period. Since this was a repeat offender, the Board recognized the need to explore how “repeats” should best be handled. Because such a discussion would necessarily involve the details of the present case, the discussion was deferred to the executive session later in the evening.

A family moving into Harding in the near future wants to place their two twins in kindergarten for the coming school term. If they do, they would have to pay out-of-district tuition until they actually take up residence in Harding. They have requested a discount for the second child. The regular per child rate is \$8,500. After much discussion, and recognizing the second child would not require separate bussing or trigger additional teacher/teacher-aide personnel, it was proposed to offer a reduction to \$7,500 for the second child. This will be discussed with the parents and, if acceptable, be voted upon at the next Board meeting.

The District Curriculum Council (a “think tank” group of teachers, administrators, and one Board of Education member) presented their annual End of the Year Status Report. A teacher from each curriculum area gave highlights from their write-up. The composite of this was quite extensive and makes for interesting reading. Copies are available in the School office.

The Superintendent reported that work needed to be done in response to the New Jersey Department of Education QSAC (Quality Single Accountability Continuum) Program. This is a self-review that districts complete once every three years, and which Harding completed last Fall. One of the five components, *Instruction and Program*, revealed that some of Harding’s curricula were not updated recently enough to earn all the points in *Instruction and Program*. To rectify this situation, HTS staff will write curriculum over the summer and have it approved by the Board before the start of the 2013-2014 school year.

Civic Association News and Announcements

Civic Association: There will be no July or August meetings unless otherwise noted.

The DEADLINES FOR THE next issue OF THE THUMBNAIL is September 7. 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

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The Hours of operation are every Wednesday from 7AM. to noon (7– 9AM self service); and every other **Sat.: 9AM to noon June 29; July 13, 27, August 10, 24, Sept 7, 21.**

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.

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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(3 rd Wed)	7:30 PM
Harding Open Space (2 nd Wed)	7:30 PM
Harding Twp Civic Association (3 rd Wed)	7:30 PM