

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since at Least 1971”

www.HardingCivic.org

APRIL 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Attention Harding Veterans!

You are invited to march in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday May 26, 2014. The parade steps off at 0930 hours from the parking lot of the Harding Township School. If you have any questions, please call Airman **Jake Hays** at 973-605-5203. Looking forward to seeing you there!

KEMMERER LIBRARY – April 2014

2014 Winter Operating Hours:

10 - 5 Monday - Friday

10 - 1 Saturday

12 - 3 Sunday

Children’s Programs: Storytime -- Tuesdays, 10:30 am. Children aged 1-4 listen to stories, sing songs and do a craft. **Baby Play Group --Tuesdays, 11:30 am.** Caregivers and babies, 6 months-12 months of age, meet to play/chat and sing songs. **Pre-K Play Group and Lunch Bunch -- Wednesdays, 11 am and Thursdays, 12:00 p.m.** Bring your lunch and come before or after pre-school for an hour of play, stories, and songs.

Children’s Special Events: Treasures in Your Backyard

The Library has teamed up with the Great Swamp Watershed Association for a month of celebrating Harding Township’s cultural and natural riches. A treasure hunt for all ages kicks off the fun.

Sunday, March 30, 4:00 pm. -- Harding Treasure Hunt Begins. Pick up your treasure hunter kit and map and start your quest to collect the 12 clues hidden all over Harding Township! You have almost 2 weeks to complete the quest! Refreshments, incentives, and fun for all ages.

Saturday, April 5, 10:00 a.m.-12 noon – Bayne Park Treasures. Bring your treasure hunter kit and complete 2 clues with the help of Library volunteers. **Friday, April 11, 4:00 p.m. -- Grand Finale** with prizes for completed treasure hunter kits.

Saturday, April 19, 12 noon - 2:00 pm. – Bird and Bee Box Building Workshop. Bring a hammer (& an adult) and build a wild critter home for your own backyard. *Registration required*

6-7th Grade Book Club: Monday, April 21 5:30 pm. If you enjoy reading and love to chat about what you have read, this book club is for you! We'll talk, do a craft, have a nice snack – and have lots of fun. April's selection TBD. Contact the Library for more information.

3rd Grade Book Club – Sunday, April 13 and 27, 5:00 pm Each child reads a book and reviews it for the other members of the club. Crafts, prizes, discussion. Fosters love of reading in an informal, fun atmosphere.

Wednesday, April 9, 4:00 pm: Beach Party. Ages 4 and up. Get ready for summer! Come dressed for the beach and have fun with beach games, summer stories, and a special craft. *Registration required, please.*

Adult Programs:

March 30-April 23: Discounted Well Water Testing Program. Pick up your well testing kit to have your water professionally analyzed. \$110 per well – 1/3 of regular cost. In collaboration with the Great Swamp Watershed Association. Contact the Library for more information.

Sunday, April 6, 3-5 pm – Second Annual Book Club Fest. All book club lovers – members and would-be members – are cordially invited to join us for an afternoon of sharing, inspiration, and guest appearance by a literature expert. *Registration required, please.*

Saturday, April 19, 10:00 am - 12 noon – Wildlife “Berried” Treasures. Learn how to select native plants that will attract birds, bees, and butterflies to your yard. In collaboration with the Great Swamp Watershed Association.

Saturday, April 27, 9:00 am -12 noon – Volunteer Day at Bayne Park. Help maintain native plant buffer around Bayne Pond (waiver required. 15 and older only). Followed by luncheon at the Library.

Yarn Circle Knitting Club, every Wednesday, 1-2 pm. Join us for conversation, inspiration and instruction by the fireplace. Fun for beginners and experienced knitters alike.

Mat Yoga: Mondays at 10:30 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, February 26, 7:30 pm. This month's selection is The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman. One of this year's most popular book club reads – a story about extraordinarily compelling characters seeking to find their North Star in a world where there is no right answer, where justice for one person is another's tragic loss.

Mah Jongg Club, Thursdays, 12 noon -2 pm. Social play. All are welcome.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Preliminary Capital Budget for 2014 Discussed, March 17, 2014

At the March 17 Township Committee meeting, the preliminary Capital Budget was discussed in some detail. It will be formally introduced in April and adopted in May.

This first cut budget calls for \$750K in outlays. Municipal building will get \$20K of improvements, upgrades and new AV equipment, including a new sign on the Blue Mill Road entrance to Kirby Hall. This sign survived Sandy, but is rotten and quite inaccurate since our court is now shared with Madison. "Public Improvements" - roads, tennis court (tentatively), other -- will be allocated \$105K. (The TC continues to seek citizen input regarding the advisability of spending \$50K to renovate the tennis courts adjacent to Kirby Hall.) The Farm at Harding needs \$25K of maintenance. Future COAH obligations will be funded by \$215K. A new SUV for the Police department will cost \$35K and other Police Dept items add up to \$31.5K. And DPW shopping list totals \$318K and includes an \$80K skid steer with attachment which will eliminate rental expenses.

Since the operating budget (discussed above) called for only \$450K in funds to be set aside for capital expenditures against these potential outlays of \$750K, the capital fund balance will decrease substantially in 2014, from about \$461 at the beginning of the year to \$161k at the end.

Township Committee, March 17, 2014

Township 2014 Budget Formally Introduced

On St Patrick's Day, the Township Committee (TC) formally introduced the 2014 budget. The budget calls for lower taxes (7.3% -- you read that right!), paydown of debt, increase in capital budget, and maintenance of surplus. But before we get too excited, understand that this budget is only for the township operations and local open space spending (together about 28% of your property taxes). And though the Morris County Freeholders have promised to hold county taxes (27% of your property tax bill) flat, the Harding Board of Education has proposed a budget that increases taxes by about 2%. School related taxes drive about 43% of your tax bill.

And importantly most of the 7.3% decrease in municipal taxes is driven by Federal Emergency Management Admin (FEMA) reimbursement for Super Storm Sandy. Sandy has caused spending and taxes to spike up last year (2013) and then drop sharply this year as Harding Township (HT) received reimbursement monies. So next year, without this non-recurring inflow, net spending and taxes are very likely to pop back up.

Before the presentation dove into the budget details, it reviewed a few other items:

Where Do the Taxes Go?

Harding collected \$21.9MM in property taxes last year. The School got the biggest piece (43%) followed by the Township (27%), Morris County (26%), Harding Open Space Trust (3%) and County Open Space (1%). The assessed value of all of Harding's taxable properties is just over \$2 Billion (\$2.043B) while the average resident pay about \$13.5 thousand in property taxes on her "average property" valued at \$1.25MM.

Township Debt -- AAA and Declining

Harding has about \$8.1MM in debt outstanding, down from \$11.3MM in 2008. The TC has a policy of paying down debt and forecasts it will be all repaid by 2028. This year's debt service just over \$1MM. Affordable housing drove 40% of the debt issuance. Other causes were Open Space (23%), Municipal spending (16%), "Wildlife" (13%) and Glen Alpin (8%).

Note that Margetts Field is NOT on the list, as that debt was extinguished in 2013. "Wildlife" is actually a property purchased many years ago in a settlement with the EPA in lieu of having to remediate an old Harding dump site.

Open Space

As mentioned above, 3% of your property taxes. The TC was given the power by referenda several years ago to tax 2 to 5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation towards open space. In 2008, both HT and Morris County taxed at 4.5 cents per \$100. The County has cut its rate steadily to 1 cent. Some have criticized the County for this 78% reduction as a politically less painful way to show fiscal control. The current budget calls for 3.5 cents per \$100, the same rate as in 2013. This is the rate that HOST, Harding Open Space Trust, recommended to the TC. At current property valuation, this tax will raise about \$710K. Fully one third of this money will go to debt service that was associated with OS purchases. The OS Trust Fund had a balance of \$1.64MM at 1/1/14.

Affordable Housing - Must Build More in the Near Future

The Council on Affordable Housing (the genesis of which was the landmark Mount Laurel court decision) requires that all municipalities make affordable housing available. The cost of the required housing units (the number of which are determined by a complex formula based on growth in the town) is born by the municipalities. HT's COAH housing is The Farm at Harding located on the corner of Kitchell Road and Woodland Ave. Debt service on this asset will be \$398K in 2014 while net revenues (rent less operating costs) will be about \$220K. Therefore the HT budget will bear about \$178K to support that facility.

Governor Christie attempted to cut back the COAH liability but was stymied by affordable housing advocates in the courts. It now appears that HT will have to provide more COAH units in the future, the prospect of which has been on the TC's radar for some years.

To meet its mandate under the so-called 3rd Round rules, HT's plan is to build two more units at The Farm, allow accessory residences and consider a group home.

Appropriations -- Where Will the \$8.54 Million Go?

HT will spend \$8.54MM in 2014. About two thirds will be appropriated by the 11 departments that make up township government. The balance is for debt service, COAH and other expenses not allocated to the 11 departments.

The Police Department is the largest -- accounting for \$2.84MM (about half) of the \$5.6M of all department spending. Compensation and benefits are \$2.35MM. Health care for retired police personnel is \$316K and other department expenses (gasoline, etc) are \$168K.

The Department of Public Works is the second largest -- at \$939K, about 17% of all departments spend. Compensation and benefits are \$534K while other expenses (fuel, salt, contractors, asphalt, etc) are almost \$396K. Retiree health insurance is just \$8.9K. In descending order, the other departments are Administration (9%), Finance (6%), Construction (5.5%), Health (5%), Legal Services (3%), Zoning Board (2%), Joint Court (1.5%), Engineering (1%), and Planning Board (1%). Legal, Engineering and Joint Court are all outsourced and have no payroll. Reflecting the personnel intensive nature of a

municipal government, salaries and benefits account for 77% of department costs while the other costs are just 23%.

And reflecting the rising costs of healthcare and past contracts, 35% of healthcare costs are for retired employees (mostly police officers) while 65% of healthcare costs are to pay for active employees.

Budget Highlights

The TC said that the 2014 does 5 things. (1) Ensures HT's low tax structure, at least the part that the TC controls. (2) Returns FEMA reimbursement of \$147K back to the taxpayers. (3) Maintains a health surplus. (4) Increases the capital budget by \$60K. (5) Increases snow removal budget.

In 2014, overall spending will actually drop 4% from \$8.88MM to \$8.54MM. But \$246K of that \$341 reduction is caused by having no emergency appropriation for Super Sandy. More structurally, health insurance expense is forecast to drop \$168K due to employee contributions (4th year for most employees and 1st year for police). Non-union employees have had a high deductible plan.

On the income side, "general revenues" (non tax revenues) are projected to increase about 2.5% due mainly to the FEMA Super Sandy reimbursement. This permits a 7.2% reduction in tax take needed to balance the budget. But without that FEMA reimbursement, taxes STILL would have been reduced almost ½ percent.

But the assessed value of all taxable Harding properties has again declined (by \$15MM or 0.74%) so property owners won't see the 7.2% decrease in taxes. Rather it will be more like 6.4% as the rate drops from \$0.282 to \$0.264 per \$100 of assessed value. Driving down the assessed value are a number of factors, among the property tax appeals, Open Space purchases which take property off the tax rolls, and new farm assessments. Recent new construction and home improvements are not enough to offset those depressing factors.

The Bottom Line for "Average Homeowner" - \$204 Less in Taxes

The average home (\$1.06MM assessed value) will see its municipal tax bill cut about \$200 from \$3016 to \$2810 in 2014. Remember, the County taxes are promised to remain unchanged while the Harding School taxes are rising.

The TC ended with a review of financial challenges which include (1) the ongoing PBA contract negotiation, (2) benefit cost increases, (3) NJ State underfunded pensions and (4) uncertainty around COAH policy and mandates. But the TC continues to hold the following objectives: (1) fund quality of service consistent with HT's tradition of "trim government", (2) conservative expenditure of tax dollars, (3) continued debt paydown, (4) maintain strong financial position and AAA bond rating, (5) fund capital expenditures on a cash ("pay as we go") basis.

Board of Education Meeting

Highlights, Monday, February 24, 2014

The Superintendent gave his "State of the District" report which covered all aspects of Harding activities from student activities, academic standings, physical improvements, funding, and administration. This comprehensive report of over 70 slides deserves a visit to the school district's website (hardingtwp.org) for the full presentation. Two items are briefly mentioned here. Most notably, median test scores are improving in all grades relative to those throughout the state and within our peer group, although those in the lower quintile did not show as much progress, indicating that more attention to this area is needed. Another topic of concern was the transition from the familiar NJSAK testing program to the national PARCC. The implementation of this program by the state came rapidly with the general feeling that there was inadequate time and information for the teachers to prepare their students. (This is the last year for NJASK; next spring – 2015 – PARCC will replace NJASK.)

The next item on the agenda brought up the topic of implementing the snow day schedule – should it be changed from the end of the school year as presently, or should it be moved up to spring break or other times. This caused quite a discussion, not only among the Board members but also from the teachers and parents in attendance. On one hand, the lost days precluded the teachers from using that time for preparing their students for the NJASK tests. On the other side, inserting make-up days into the spring break interfered with planned vacations and other activities, both by teachers and parents, and furthermore was not in sync with the snow days scheduled by Madison High, causing further disruption to family schedules. The parents and teachers spoke against changing the schedule. While the Board members wanted the time to best prepare the students for the NJASK, they were sympathetic to the concerns raised. At the end of the discussions and comments, the Board asked the Superintendent to review all the options and make a recommendation at the next Board meeting (which will occur on the next Monday, March 3rd).

Board of Education Meeting

Highlights, Monday, March 3, 2014

More than a dozen teachers, parents, and interested citizens were in attendance. The main focus of this meeting was the presentation of the 2014/15 "preliminary" budget, so called because it must be approved by the county and state Boards of Education. As a practical matter, this is the budget, and it would be very difficult to change at this point in time. It is a "business as usual" budget which carries on the existing programs of the District while making allowance for a projected sharp increase in mandated health care costs, and considering the outcome of the teacher union negotiations. This presentation can be viewed on the District website Hardingtwp.org, and is well worth a look. The outcome is that a 2.81% increase in funding will be required by Harding taxpayers, and without voter approval. Most of us may have thought that the maximum increase without a vote was 2%, but there are some nuances (not loopholes, exactly), that come into play. One is that there are some exemptions such as healthcare costs which can be added on to the 2%, and then there is the recovery of money that wasn't asked for in the previous two years, explained as follows: Since the 2012/13 year had a 1.78% increase, and the 2013/14 had 1.50%, and each could have been 2%, this leaves a recapture of .22% and .50%

available. Only about \$58K will be used, however, leaving the opportunity for another greater than 2% increase next year, without vote.

The second notable issue was the possible adjustment of snow days on the school calendar, which were carried over from the last meeting. As requested, the Superintendent provided information regarding possible impact of a change such as teacher availability and student benefit. After a brief discussion, the Board felt that, unless more snow days occur, the schedule should be left as presently promulgated, but all agreed to consider alternatives when addressing next year's calendar.

(Note: the purpose of this brief report is to help Harding residents connect with the School by highlighting significant items addressed by the Board. The "meeting minutes" are filed by the Board Secretary and placed on the Harding School website for all to view, generally about a month after the meeting date.)

HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

Alex Anemone, Ed.D., Superintendent of School

Spring is finally here. Our spring athletic season (girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse and coed track and field) has begun and we are nearing the end of our budget season. At the Board of Education meeting held on March 3, the Board approved the tentative 2014-2015 Harding Township School budget. The budget has already been sent to the executive county superintendent and will be presented to the Harding Township community in greater detail at the May 5 BOE meeting. That meeting, also referred to as the public hearing, will begin at 7:30p.m. in the HTS Library/Media Center. The tentative budget maintains our current staffing configuration as well as all co-curricular activities. Despite rising health care costs related to the Affordable Care Act and relatively flat state aid, the local tax levy will only rise 2.81% with the total budget rising only 2.01%. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to a fantastic finish to the 2013-2014 school year. Full details can be found on our website.

On March 21, the PTO unanimously voted to fund a grant - estimated at \$29,250 - to replace all SmartBoards in the elementary school with newer models. This will enable our teachers to integrate technology into their daily lessons and allows our students to build and develop college and career readiness skills from the day they enter HTS.

Additionally, and on behalf of the staff and student body, I would like to offer special thanks to the PTO and extra special thanks to our media specialist, David Harris for tying two other PTO grants together in an educational way. Starting with the 2012-2013 school year, the PTO fully funded the \$105,000.00 Digital Learning Initiative, purchasing iPads for teachers (grades K-8) and students in the middle school (grades 5-8). This year, as part of their continued support of the Battle of the Books, the PTO generously bought multiple sets of novels, eBooks, and for the first time, online audiobooks. These audiobooks can be accessed on any digital device, including our iPads (plus cell phones, laptops, desktops, etc.) Mr. Harris has set up a common district wide login for students and teachers to use. We are hoping that the audiobooks will provide another pathway to learning as students explore diverse literature to prepare for the Battle of the Books contest coming later this spring.

Harding Township Educational Foundation Brick Campaign

The Harding Township School will undergo a repair and beautification of the middle School entrance during the Summer of 2014. The HTEF will participate in this exciting project with a fundraising brick campaign. Make an everlasting gift to the school by purchasing an engraved brick etched with your own personalized message. The proceeds from this campaign will assist the HTEF in supporting curriculum enhancement projects.

To obtain a reservation form, please visit the Harding Township School website:

www.hardingtwp.org , mail the form along with your check or money order to:

Harding Township Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 734, New Vernon, NJ 07976

Please call Howard Kotkin @ 732-261-2643 with questions.

“HUSKY PUPS” PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM

If you have a child who will become three years old during the 2014 – 2015 school year and you would like to enroll him/her in our program, please let us know. There are a few limited spots available in this tuition-based program. For additional information, please call the Office of Student Services at 973-267-6398, x.112.

HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If you have not yet registered for the 2014-2015 school year, kindly stop by the Middle School Main Office, 34 Lee’s Hill Road in New Vernon between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:30 pm. Entering kindergarten students must have attained the age of **five** years on or before October 1, 2014. An orientation program will be offered to registered families on April 30, 2014. At that time we will provide information about our Kindergarten program and assist your child in making a smooth transition to our school community. If you have any concerns about your child’s development or have identified special needs, please contact Fraida Yavelberg, Consultant-Supervisor Student Services at (973) 267-6398, ext. 112.

Please bring the following documents to register:

- Original birth certificate
- List of immunizations
- NJ Driver’s License or Morris County or NJ State Photo ID
- One of the following: deed of home, mortgage or closing statement, lease
- Two of the following showing family name and Harding Twp. address – must be current: recent utility bill, cable bill, telephone/cell phone bill, NJ Vehicle Registration, Voter Registration or other acceptable proof of residency.

HARDING TOWNSHIP NEWS:

Cell Tower Hosting

Property owners in Harding’s B-2 zone who potentially have an interest in hosting a cell tower and want further information should contact Gail McKane, the Harding Township Administrator at GMcKane@HARDINGNJ.ORG. Ms. McKane will ensure that any contact request is forwarded to the appropriate contact. Harding’s B-2 Zone extends along Route 202 on both sides of the highway (with an intervening area zoned OB on the eastern side) from Bernard’s Township northward; on the western side of Route 202, it extends nearly to the Tempe Wick | Glen Alpine Road intersection.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

No report this month

Planning Board Meeting February 24, 2014

Roll Call: Mr. Dietz absent.

Administration of Oath: Ms. DiTosto and Messrs. Newlin and dePoortere were sworn in.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on January 27, 2014 were approved after some comments and minor revisions.

Announcements/Reports/Presentations

- Mr. Saulnier reported that Mr. Drew should be back in attendance in March.
- Regarding the Board's budget, Mr. Saulnier reported that he increased the numbers for engineering and planning at the suggestion of Ms. McKane. The Board agreed to submit the budget to the Township Committee.
- Mr. Saulnier reminded the Board of the need to review the Board's professionals. This will be done after the next meeting in executive session.
- Mr. Saulnier wondered whether any educational sessions need to be conducted for the Board ("we'll think about it").
- Mr. Schliefer reported that the Board of Adjustment was considering the issue of generators placed in front of buildings. Also, this Board's annual report should be coming next month.
- Mr. Clew reported that the Environmental Commission will be focusing on education, and that clean-up day will be held in April.
- Ms. Ditosto reported that HOST had given a presentation at the last Township Committee meeting; this can be viewed on the township website. Of note, the open space tax should remain at \$0.035 per \$100 of assessed valuation, and \$122,844 is being contributed to the closing of Frelinghuysen Lot 4.03.
- Mr. dePoortere reported that CPAC had met last week and discussed goals for 2014. The annual fishing derby will be held on April 12th, and CPAC will support the clean-up day.

Extension of Time Request

PB 1-09, **Applicant 151 Madison Avenue Corporation**, Block 4, Lots 15, 15.03 and 15.04, 610 Van Buren Road, Minor Subdivision. Action: Request for a two-year extension of deadline for installation of subdivision improvements. No improvements have been completed, in part due to the real estate market. No building permits may be issued until improvements are completed. Town is still holding deposit which doesn't need to be increased. Mr. Hall suggested granting the extension from the original August approval date. Extension approved.

Application

PB 04-13, **Applicant Wesley and Mary Margaret Lang**, Block 19, Lot 7, 521 James Street, Minor Subdivision Approval. Action: Continue Public Hearing

Mr. Hall had prepared draft resolution which was revised based on Mr. Fox's review. One issue was whether the water line could be extended to the subdivision. Ms. Olcott argued that this would be inconsistent with the master plan and the philosophy of the town which is to not

expand infrastructure. While extensions had been built along private roads, none have been done along public roads. So the proposed cistern will stand. Mr. Fox reported that the drive was adjusted, and storm water management had been relocated to the other side of the drive to provide more room for the bridle path.

Still needed were a drive profile and paving plan, and metes and bounds for bridle path. Also, since the septic system must be relocated, a bond must be posted for that and other improvements (fire protection and storm water management) before recording. Mr. Hall reviewed revisions to the resolution which was then approved.

Other Business

Mr. Saulnier then led a discussion of possible issues for the Board to investigate in 2014. Items were also suggested by the public. These included the following:

- Should swing sets and play sets be allowed in setback areas?
- Should fencing and related ordinances be reviewed?
- Do we need an area outside of the building box to prevent building up to conservation easements? Or put a buffer around conservation easements?
- Should relief be granted from setback requirements for non-standard lots?
- Should greater relief be granted to allow generators in front yards with proper screening?
- Should the ordinance which applies to houses that are less than 150 feet from the front lot line and limits coverage to limit appearance of bulk be reviewed?
- Should the ordinance that relates to residential housing in B-1 zone and the applicability of FAR be reviewed?
- Should the proposed septic management protocol designed by Morris County be considered?
- Should the board consider the issue of accessory structures in front of houses?
- How can lighting restrictions be enforced?
- Should the zoning list be updated to designate public lands as public?

Harding Township Police Department

National Take Back Initiative, Saturday April 26th

The Harding Township Police Department will be participating in the annual "**NATIONAL TAKE-BACK INITIATIVE**" program, to be held on Saturday April 26, 2014. The program allows citizens to rid their homes of unused, unwanted or expired medications by turning these medications over to the Harding Township Police Department, who in turn, dispose of these medications in a safe and non- hazardous manner, preventing these pills from falling into the hands of juveniles or illicit market conditions.

A container for disposal will be placed in the lobby of the Harding Township Police Department, 21 Blue Mill Road, New Vernon, NJ from the hours of 10am to 2pm. The program is anonymous, NO SYRINGES will be accepted, and it is suggested to remove all personal information from each container. Individuals are free to deposit medications freely and independently. For further information, please contact Chief Mark Giansanti at 973-455-1371

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

No report this month

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Screenings:

- Male Cancer Screening is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, 2014 from 5pm. to 6 pm at the Municipal Building. The screening includes an exam by a doctor, blood work, and educational material. *An appointment is necessary.*
- A free Adult Health Fasting Blood-work clinic will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2014, from 8 am to 11 am at the Municipal Building. To schedule an appointment for the above clinics, please call 973-267-8000, ext.1968. Health Hot Line: 973/267-8000 ext 1962. *An appointment is necessary.*

AROUND TOWN

Harding Township Civic Association

Volunteer Fair, Monday, May 26th

Based on last year's success, the Harding Civic Association once again will host a "**Volunteer Fair**" at the conclusion of the Memorial Day parade. This provides an opportunity for all Harding based civic organizations and township committees to showcase their activities and recruit members. Gathering in Memorial Park, each group will have a table for displaying their literature with their members explaining their activities and answering questions. If you would like to participate, please email Richard Olsen at VolunteerFair@hardingCivic.org –by May 16th.

Girls on the Run is an experiential learning program that combines training for a 3.1 mile run/walk event with life-changing, self-esteem enhancing, uplifting workouts that encourage emotional, social, and physical development. Participants learn how to make healthy decisions, resolve conflict, and get along in a group.

AGES: Girls on the Run Program is for girls in 3th-5th grades.

When: March 24- June 7, 2014

Spring Session Dates: Mondays and Fridays 3:10-4:40 pm

Registration: Opens March 1st

Where: Harding Township Middle School

Fast and easy online registration at: <http://girlsontherunnj.org>

For additional Information please reach out to:

Laura Donath Morris County Director: laura@girlsontherunnj.org

Dorothy Lee: dlee0417@gmail.com

Mrs. Rosenfeld hrosenfeld@hardingtwp.org

Note: Harding Township Middle School GOTR program was started by Dorothy Lee (Madison High junior and Harding Township resident) with the help of her former HT middle school teacher: Mrs. Holly Rosenfeld and her Madison High school friends, senior Katie Brundage and junior Emily Fritz. Girls on the Run® is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization

Harding Township Environmental Commission & Department of Public Works

The Harding Township Road Side Clean-up Day, Saturday, April 26th, 9AM until Noon.

We need your help to keep maintain the rural beauty of our town. Meet at Town hall to get a street assignment where your help is needed to pick-up road side debris that has collected over the long winter. Gloves, safety vests, garbage bags, will be provided. Free tee shirts and refreshments will be provided to participants while they last. Groups are welcome. This is great opportunity for students to earn community service hours. Rain date will be Sunday, April 27th. Please be sure to wear sunscreen and bug spray. Event brought to you by the Harding Township Environmental Commission and Department of Public Works. Harding, Clean and Green!

Harding Township Historical Society

Harding's History in Pictures – „A Sampling“ ,Wednesday, April 9 at 7:00 pm

Where: Tunis Ellicks House at 16 Village Road

HTHS members and the public are invited to view several slide shows culled from the historical society archives and recent donations from Harding Township residents. The public are invited to bring memorabilia of Harding and discuss the items with Board members. Admission is free for members of the historical society and \$5.00 for non-members. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to hardinghist@comcast.net or by calling (973) 292-3661.

Harding Land Trust Annual Meeting, Thursday, April 24 at 7 pm

Location: New Vernon Firehouse. We will be thanking David Shepperly for his role as President of the Board these past three years, as well as thanking outgoing Trustee and Secretary Susan Deeks for her wonderful years of service. Dessert will be served.

Harding Township Recreational Association

Field Hockey

Registrations are still being accepted for these Field Hockey programs:

- Field Hockey Camps scheduled for the weeks of July 28 - August 1 (Grades 4-8), and August 4 - 8 (Grades 8-12)
- Harding Hawks Summer/Fall Field Hockey Club (Grades 5-8)
- Spring Clinic (Grades 2/3)

New This Year: Participants can register online using a credit card!

Please visit the HTRA website (www.htra.info) for registration forms and additional information.

HTRA Summer Day Camp

2014 Enrollment is Now Open!

The Harding Township Recreation Association is pleased to offer its **Summer Day Camp** program this year from Monday, June 30th through Friday July 25th hours are from 9 am to 3 pm (Closed on Friday July 4th). Campers can enroll for as many weeks as they wish.

The HTRA Day Camp offers programs for children from 3-12 years of age. Located at the Harding Township School, the activities include Arts & Crafts, Swimming, Sports & Games, Computer Lab and other fun activities- including once again Tennis (subject to court completion). The Polliwog program is offered for 3 and 4 year olds and runs from 9 am –

Noon, with the option to enroll for the full day program that runs until 3 pm. Science enrichment program is offered for an additional for grades 1-4.

To enroll and for more information visit www.hardingtowshipdaycamp.com

Or email hardingtowshipdaycamp@gmail.com with questions or suggestions.

Green Village Fire Department

The Auxiliary of the Green Village Fire Department is hosting the following events:

Paper Shredding Event, Saturday, April 5, 2014

The paper shredding event is held at the Green Village firehouse. The event will run from 9 am until 12 noon. All are welcome to bring personal and business documents for shredding, sensitive information will be destroyed on site by truck mount shredder provided by Absolute Shredding of Hackettstown. Not only will this fundraiser protect privacy and help avoid identity theft, it will also help to protect the environment as all the shredding paper will be recycled into other paper products. The cost will be \$5 per file box or brown paper grocery bag. Larger containers will be priced accordingly. No newspapers, magazines, books or binders please. If you need any additional information, please email us at GreenVillageFire@Hotmail.com.

5K RUN, Sunday, April 6, 2014

The 5K run starts the Green Village firehouse. The early registration cost is \$25 (+ sign-up fee) per person and ends on April 1st. The late registration cost is \$30 (+ sign-up fee) per person. To register online please visit our website: www.GreenVillageFire.com . The 5K will be held rain or shine. Events sponsor opportunities are available. If you need additional information about the event or sponsorship please visit our website at www.GreenVillageFire.com or email us at GreenVillageFire@Hotmail.com.

Indoor Flea Market Saturday, April 26, 2014

A multi-family indoor flea market with 20+ vendors. The sale will be from 9 am to 3 pm in the truck days of the Green Village firehouse and will be held rain or shine. A wide range of items will be available such as antiques, children's toys, jewelry, housewares, books, clothing and much much more. Home-baked goods will be available as well. Parking is free. For questions please contact Janet Doherty at 973-377-4071 or email GreenVillageFire@Hotmail.com. If you are interested in renting a table, please visit the Event and Fundraiser page on our website at [GreenVillageFire.com](http://www.GreenVillageFire.com) to download a form. Table space is limited and will be rented on a first-come first-served basis. All proceeds benefit the auxiliary of the Green Village fire department for fire scene relief, training and community outreach. Green Village firehouse is located at 529 Green Village Road in Green Village and services both Chatham and Harding Township.

Great Swamp Watershed Association

What's in Your Water?

Great Swamp Watershed Association is now offering Harding Township residents a cost effective opportunity to have their household's well water thoroughly tested using professional labs, testing for a broad range of water quality parameters. For more information call Kelly Martin at 973 538 3500 x 19 at the Great Swamp Watershed

Association. To learn more about the Great Swamp Watershed Association please visit:
<http://www.GreatSwamp.org>

Citizens Parks Advisory Committee (CPAC)

Annual Children's Fishing Derby, Saturday April 12

From 8am to Noon

Bayne Park. Prizes! All Welcome!

Wildlife Management Committee

Bears: The WMC reminds all that the award winning DVD "Living with NJ Black Bears" is available for loan at the Kemmerer Library. NJ residents may also order their own free copy (one per household) from the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. Use the online order form at http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/bearfacts_dvd-order.htm or reach Michelle Smith at 609-259-6961 or Michelle.Smith@dep.state.nj.us

Canada Geese: In its efforts to control the Canada geese population in Harding Township, the Wildlife Management Committee is asking residents to help identify locations where Canada geese might be nesting in the Township. Volunteers are ready to assist by treating eggs so that they will not hatch (called addling), using methods approved by the Fish & Wildlife Service.

If you have a body of water on or near your property, or have seen goslings in prior years, it is likely that you will have nests again this year. Harassing birds during the nesting season, or removing eggs from nests is counterproductive, because it will encourage the birds to re-nest out of sight, where eggs can't be found or effectively treated.

Early identification of bird pairs and nesting sites does much to assure the process.

Migratory geese will leave the area by the end of March. Resident bird pairs will then be more visible, usually claiming an area and keeping other pairs away. If you think your property is a potential nesting site, if you see obvious pairs, would like to learn more about what to look for or need help in spotting or treating nests, please contact the Committee at khmeister3@gmail.com, (973) 605 8274 or r.a.shields@att.net, (973) 267-5673.) A property conducive to nesting should be monitored weekly throughout the nesting season, which starts in mid to late March and ends mid May. For help and best results, please call us sooner rather than later. Addling eggs controls the growth of the goose population. Done properly, it is both, humane and effective!

Harding Seniors

Harding Seniors meet the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 11 am.in the Activity Center of the Church of Christ the King on Blue Mill Road. Mary Bentzlin--Program Chair 973-971-9926 mary.bentzlin@yahoo.com

April 10 Thursday 9 am Harding Elementary School-Blue Mill Road

Annual Harding Seniors Breakfast hosted by Harding Elementary School, student entertainment.

May 8 Thursday 11am Mary Curoski-Visiting Nurse Association-Topic-"Caring for the Caregiver & VNA Homecare Programs and Understanding Hospice and Supportive Care." Lunch, all are welcome.

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon

Save the Date Sunday, April 6, 5 pm

Min Kwon, Harding Township resident and world renowned concert pianist, will present **A Spring Concert with Min Kwon and Friends** on Sunday, Aprils 6 at 5:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon. Tickets are \$20 and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. All proceeds will be donated to the church's Piano Fund.

TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

The hours of operation are:

Wednesdays: 7 am. - noon (7– 9am self service)

Every other Saturday: 9 am - noon: **April 12th & 26th May 10th & 24th June 7th & 21st**

Commingled Recyclables: Consists of all aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles, all plastic bottles and containers with the Recycling symbol, and #1, 2, 4, 5 & 7. Try to crush plastic bottle to conserve space. Please remember no plastic or paper bags.

Commingled Mixed Fiber: 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), Propane tanks (BBQ size only) and fluorescent bulbs (tube and compact).

E-Waste items accepted: Computers, monitors, laptops and televisions cannot be put into household trash. However, all E-waste items including printers, copiers, fax machines and all computer peripherals can be brought to the Harding DPW recycling center at the regular hours of operation.

Recycling Questions:

Please contact Tracy Toribio at Harding DPW - 973 267 2448, Mon- Fri 8:30 am to 3 pm.

Civic Association News and Announcements

Civic Association: If you have submissions for early May, please send in by April 18th to be included in Mays issue.

DEADLINES FOR THUMBNAIL SUBMISSION: the third Friday of each month.

The DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT 3 ISSUES are: May 16th and June 20th.

Current and past issues of Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are also on our Website: www.HardingCivic.org.

Send questions or comments about *Thumbnail* to editor to: HTCA@mail.com

OR submissions@hardingcivic.org

OR PO Box 72 New Vernon, NJ 07976

The Civic Association website, www.HardingCivic.org, is updated frequently.

DATES TO REMEMBER, meetings as noted.

Environmental Commission (1 st Wednesday)	7:30 PM
Seniors (2 nd & 4 th Thursday) Christ the King Church	11:00AM
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	7:30 PM
Historical Preservation Committee (1 st Thursday)	7:30 PM
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	7:30 PM
Board of Education (1st & 3rd Monday)	7:30 PM
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM
Township Committee (1 st & 2 nd Monday)	7:30 PM
Harding Open Space (2 nd Wednesday)	7:30 PM
Harding TWP Civic Association (2 nd Tuesday)	7:30 PM

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Harding Township Civic Association
P.O. Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976