

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

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since at Least 1971”

www.HardingCivic.org

June 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Attention Harding Residents

The next Thumbnail publication will be for the month of September. During our hiatus (June, July and August) please forward your announcements to submissions@hardingcivic.org and they will be posted on the Harding Township Civic Association website: HardingCivic.org and periodically, we will distribute these announcements to our email list."

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer!

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION

A very special thank you to everyone who made this year's Memorial Day Parade and Volunteer Fair a tremendous success!

- | | |
|--|---|
| Bridle Path Association | Great Swamp Watershed Association |
| New Vernon Garden Club | Glen Alpine Conservatory |
| Seniors Citizen Group | Friends of the Great Swamp |
| Harding Land Trust | Green Village Volunteer Fire Department |
| New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department | NV First Aide Squad |
| Kemmerer Library: Harding Township | Friends of the Library |
| Historical Preservation Commission | Open Space Trust (HOST) |
| Wildlife Management Commission | Historical Society |
| Boy Scouts | Girl Scouts |
| HT Recreational Association (HTRA) | Parent Teacher Organization |
| Parade Marshal: Harold Thorpe | Parade Chair: Lotte Newlin (HTCA) |
| HT School Band: Tim Alworth, director | HT Police Department |
| HT School Chorus, Rachael Gareau, director | Harding Township Schools |
| Volunteer Fair Coordinator: Richard Olsen (HTCA) | Humane Solutions |
| Shade Tree Commission | Environmental Commission |

All the Parade Participants & Essay Contest Winners!

DATED MATERIAL

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

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HARDING HUSKIES

“Harding Huskies” 5K Walk/Run & 1 Mile Kids Fun Run

On Saturday, June 8th, 2014, the Harding Township School PTO will host its 2nd Annual 5K, 1 Mile Fun Run and Fitness Expo. Residents are invited to run or walk a 5k (USATF Certified and Sanctioned) through beautiful Harding Twp. Kids of all ages are welcome to join the Kids 1 Mile Run and take part in a Fitness Expo, including a demonstration by Crossfit Kids, a 25 ft. Climbing Wall, DJ, food and fun! The 5K check in begins at 9 a.m., with the race starting at 10 a.m. 1 Mile Fun Run check in is at 11:15. All events take place at the Harding Township School, 34 Lee's Hill Rd., New Vernon, NJ. Register online at www.HardingPTO5Krun.com and receive a free race shirt while supplies last. Please call Tracey at 973-993-3162 with any questions. **Harding Residents & Friends Invited to!**

BRIDLE PATH ASSOCIATION

In honoring Harding Township's tradition of equestrian culture, Crew Hill Stable in conjunction with Harding Township/Green Village Bridle Path Association (HT/GV BPA) are holding their annual horse show on Sunday, June 15, 2014. It will be held at the beautiful Spring Valley Showground's on Sand Spring Lane in New Vernon. Please join the fun filled day, good food, and lively competition! Bring a chair and enjoy! For more information please contact: Vicky Sroka, Secretary HT/GV BPA (email: srokas1@verizon.net)

BAYNE PARK VOLUNTEERS

BPV ASKING FOR YOUR HELP KEEPING ARK GEESE FREE THIS SUMMER

Last year, after 6 years of training, our local Canada geese needed very few reminders that the Park, Church and Municipal Building did not provide the safety they seek for their annual molt. So hardly any “harassment/ training” was necessary. We expect this year to be a little different. Birds are nesting later, and several persistent pairs will likely require some remedial training.

So, it would be a big help if you would consider signing up to be on call for some geese harassment time slots, even if you've not done so before. Time slots are 10 AM and/or 2PM daily, starting May 15th through at least July 4th. Pick any time slots that fit your schedule--just one time slot on one day, or many more! Mix and match times and dates to suit your schedule.

We'll call you minutes before your selected time slot & tell you if geese are at the park. If so, you will come to the park to join 2 or 3 others to chase the geese away. (If not, you are free till the next slot you've signed up for!) You will be using proven techniques, under the guidance of a trained volunteer. It will take no more than ½ hour of your time. The birds learn quickly, and after the first few weeks, they rarely return. By agreeing to be “on call” for even a single time slot, you are helping to make this project a success.

Modest physical effort is required; primarily, the ability to walk across the park at a reasonable pace. All equipment is supplied. Shoes that can get muddy & long pants are suggested. This precisely timed “harassment phase”, for which we are recruiting now, is just part of a longer carefully planned scenario grounded in principles and timing of goose behavior.

PLEASE be assured, at this phase in their annual calendar they show absolutely no aggression. They run from us, not at us!

Let us know what time slots we can sign you up for! And please share news of this opportunity with your friends and family! **Thank you!**

TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

The hours of operation are:

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

Every other Saturday: 9 am - noon: **June 7th & 21st & July 5th & 19th**

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.

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIS ASSOCIATION:

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submissions for September 2014 Thumbnail please send it in by August 15th , MS Word is the preferred format, thank you!

During June, July and August, email your submissions to
HTCA@mail.com

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

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

OR PO Box 72 New Vernon, NJ 07976

result can be sometimes troubling bear-human encounters. It is illegal to intentionally feed black bears in New Jersey and punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000. But a more common problem is unintentional bear feeding by homeowners who unknowingly make household trash, pet foods and other food sources easily available for bears to find and eat. By taking a few easy steps, you can dramatically reduce the potential of bear encounters. Secure your trash and eliminate obvious sources of food, such as pet food on decks, easy-to-reach bird feeders, or food residues left in barbecue grills. Due to the severity of the winter and lack of mast in the forests last fall, black bears are now more desperately seeking food. Naturally occurring food sources, normally available at this time of year, remain scarce this spring, forcing bears into more developed areas in search of food. Bears have been sighted in all 21 New Jersey counties, and bear-human encounters have occurred a bit more frequently in recent years in places outside of traditional bear country.

Tips to minimize conflicts with bears this spring:

- Use certified bear-resistant garbage containers if possible. Otherwise, store all garbage in containers with tight-fitting lids and place them along the inside walls of your garage, or in the basement, a sturdy shed or other secure area.
- Wash garbage containers frequently with a disinfectant solution to remove odors. Put out garbage on collection day, not the night before.
- Avoid feeding birds when bears are active. If you choose to feed birds, do so during daylight hours only and bring feeders indoors at night. Suspend birdfeeders from a free-hanging wire, making sure they are at least 10 feet off the ground. Clean up spilled seeds and shells daily.
- Immediately remove all uneaten food and food bowls used by pets fed outdoors.
- Clean outdoor grills and utensils to remove food and grease residue. Store grills securely.
- Do not place meat or any sweet foods in compost piles.
- Remove fruit or nuts that fall from trees in your yard.
- Properly installed electric fencing is an effective way of protecting crops, beehives and livestock.
- If you encounter a bear remain calm and do not run. Make sure the bear has an escape route. Avoid direct eye contact, back up slowly and speak with a low, assertive voice.

Report bear damage, nuisance behavior or aggressive bears to the Wildlife Control Unit of the DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife at (908) 735-8793. During evenings and weekends, residents should call their local police department or the DEP Hotline at (877) WARN-DEP.

For more information please contact: Roberta Shields, phone: (973) 267-5673, email: r.a.shields@att.net

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.

“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 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HTHS will have an open house after the Memorial Day parade at the Tunis-Ellicks House. The public is invited to stop by the house after the parade to view exhibits and artifacts on Harding Township's history. The Tunis-Ellicks House, circa 1800, is the headquarters for the Historical Society and the site for the Annual Antique Show and Party. Lemonade and cookies will be served at the open house.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

New Fundraiser

How would you like to take your family to an affordable, family-friendly, close-to-home baseball game while at the same time, supporting your New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department. The NVVFD Auxiliary will be selling fundraising vouchers to the **Somerset Patriots** Minor League baseball games in Bridgewater. The vouchers are \$10.00 each for an upper box seat for any 2014 home game of your choice. (Just bring the voucher to the ticket window when you want to go see a game.) Tickets will be for sale at the auxiliary table at the Memorial Day Volunteer Fair,

the Auxiliary Bake Sale on Election Day, June 3rd at town hall, along with a few select Spring Saturdays outside the New Vernon Post Office. Or just contact any NVVFD Aux member. For more information, please call Connie or Nick Cherrillo @ 973-539-9383.

HARDING SENIORS

Harding Seniors June Meetings

June 12, at 11A.M. Thursday, Christ the King Activity Center

Birthday Luncheon for members of Harding Seniors

June 26 at 11 A.M. Thursday Christ the King Activity Center

Program: Peg Shultz, guest speaker & Archivist--Morris County Historical Commission--Topic: "History and Architecture of Greystone." Lunch will be served. All are welcome.

Please Note: Harding Seniors Meetings will resume the second Thursday in September, 2014

KEMMERER LIBRARY

June 2014 Calendar:

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

Summer hours, beginning June 1, 2014:

Monday-Friday: 10-5. Saturday: 10-1. Sunday: Closed.

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.

Children's Summer Reading Program:

School-aged children are warmly encouraged to join the Library's summer reading program which is designed to foster a love of reading in a fun, informal manner. Incentives, reading lists, recommendations throughout the summer months.

Saturday, May 31, 1:00 p.m. Fizz Boom Read! Magic Show – Summer Reading Kick-Off!

Children all ages are invited to join Muscle Man Mike for an hour of magic fun. Get your reading kits and get started with summer reading.

Tuesday, July 29: 12:30 p.m.: Monarch Migration Workshop. Come and discover

everything you ever wanted to know about these fascinating butterflies.

Children's Movie Nights:

Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. (Pizza and beverages for pre-order available)

July 10: Frozen

July 24: Mr. Peabody & Sherman

August 7: The Lego Movie

August 21: Rio 2

Adult Special Programs:

Thursday, June 19, 1-6 p.m. Blood drive

The library is teaming up with Turpin Realtors to sponsor a blood drive in support of blood services at Morristown Medical Center. Donors may sign up in person at the Library, by calling

provisions of c.78 P.L. 2011, commonly known as "Chapter 78" or as otherwise required by law, whichever is greater.

- All co-curricular stipends (coaches, clubs, etc.) will remain unchanged for all three years of the contract.
- Additionally, we have added non-instructional contact time in this agreement. All teachers will be assigned two (2) twenty-minute periods of lunch duty or recess duty or study hall duty per week. We believe that this condition will improve the culture and climate during our lunch and recess periods and look forward to continued progress in this area. Based on the parent feedback that was received via the spring 2013 culture and climate survey, this was an area of focus this year. The Board and administration are happy to partner with our teaching staff and anticipate improvements for the 2014-2015 school year.

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

No report this month

PLANNING BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

No report this month

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Black Bears

Black bears have emerged from winter dens and are entering a very active period of the year throughout New Jersey in search of food and mates, which makes encounters with humans more likely. Harding Township residents are urged to take a few basic precautions this spring to reduce the risk of potential encounters. The Health Department wants people to better understand how to coexist with bears and reduce the risk of interactions with bears this spring by taking a few simple and commonsense steps. Most important, do not feed bears, intentionally or unintentionally. Bears that learn to associate food with people, and their homes and living areas, can become nuisance bears that forage in neighborhoods looking for easy sources of food. The

In attendance were the President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). All spoke about the school schedule, but only as concerned parents and not as representatives of the PTO. The Board made it clear that, although comments on the schedule were welcomed, it was the Board's prerogative to set the schedule without public debate.

Highlights - Board of Education Meeting – May 5, 2014

The official Public Budget Hearing was conducted by the Superintendent and the Business Administrator showing the major revenue sources and expense items. The Superintendent stated that expenses were increasing greater than revenue such that the previously "banked surplus" could likely evaporate within the next two budget cycles. Some of this shortfall was the result of unfunded/underfunded state mandates and some was the result of only 2% state aid being received in recent years as against the historic (pre-Christe) 4%.

There was an HIB report of two sixth grade boys who were suspended for a day along with other disciplinary action. During the public comment period, the parent of one of the disciplined boys read a lengthy statement which described, in her view, disruptive behavior of another boy in the class who was, allegedly, the cause of the boys' suspension, as well as someone posing an ongoing threat to the class in general. Another parent read a statement with similar views, and a third parent offered a concurring comment. Both written statements were provided to the Board. Since the parents had met with the Superintendent the previous Friday, the Board viewed that the matter was still under discussion and that it would be thoroughly investigated by the administration with the expectation of a satisfactory resolution. In accordance with policy, the Board will become involved if necessary and appropriate. The Board President encouraged the parents to address the Board again if, after a reasonable amount of time, concerns remain. It was noted that parents of five children were present at the meeting from a class size of 24, and that one parent stated that two more parents intended to come but had last minute conflicts. Board member James Novotny announced that he will not seek re-election this fall, and therefore others in the community should be encouraged to seek this important position.

(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 SCHOOLS

Alex Anemaone, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

For the past few months, the Harding Township Board of Education and Harding Township Education Association have been in negotiations for a successor contract that is scheduled to be operable from July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2017. As of today, Friday, May 16, 2014, the Harding Township Education Association has approved the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). On Monday, May 19, the Board of Education will vote on that same MOA. That this historic agreement was able to be completed before the expiration of the existing contract speaks to the collaborative nature of the negotiations process and to the determination of both parties. In fact, this labor agreement was reached with minimal attorney fees incurred by the Board. Personally, I look forward to continued partnership between our Board and our teaching staff. Contract highlights include:

- Salary increase of 8.1% over the three year period.
- All staff members will continue to contribute towards their health care premiums in an amount equal to the statutory salary health care contribution in accordance with the

us at 973-267-2665, or registering online at Kemmerer.ahsblooddonorservices.org. We would love you to register in advance, but walk-ins are welcome, too.

Friday, June 20, 8-9:30 p.m. Whiskey & Celtic Lore

Our first whiskey tasting event in January was so much fun that we decided to do another. Music and songs by guitarist, Darren O'Neil, and poetry readings by Mike Dundas — accompanied by tastings little known whiskies from all over the world. \$50 per person. Kindly RSVP to desk@hardinglibrary.org or 973-267-2665.

Evening Book Group, Wednesdays, June 25, 7:30 p.m. This month's selection is The Old Man Who Climbed out of the Window and Disappeared by Jonas Jonasson. This lighthearted novel, set in Sweden, tells the delightful story of Alan Karlsson and his experience of the 20th century. Come for discussion and inspiration. All are welcome.

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. Movie Mornings for Adults

(Bring your lunch; we supply coffee)

July 9: Her

July 16: The Monuments Men

July 23: 12 Years a Slave

July 30: Philomena

August 6: American Hustle

August 13: Maggie Smith at the BBC

August 20: The Grand Budapest Hotel

Regular Programs for Adults

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.

Summer Yoga: Time and Day TBD.

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

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

New Affordable Housing Regulations - Serious Negative Effect on Harding

New "3rd Round" COAH (Council on Affordable Housing) regulations were released very recently and they demand that Harding provides far more low income housing than previously expected.

Harding's obligation will increase from 35 units to between 55 and 130 units, an admittedly wide range that is not possible to sharpen without further study of the 3rd round release. These units must be built between now and 2024.

As well, 13% of the units must be for "very low" income residents (defined as essentially Section 8 housing).

Harding has until April of 2015 to submit a plan to comply with the edict.

And the news gets worse...

Unlike in the past, a municipality gets no “bonus credit” for building rental units. The rules used to give a bonus for providing a rental unit rather than a unit for sale. Harding had earned some of these COAH bonus credits because the units at The Farm at Harding (Woodland and Kitchell Roads) are all rental units. These previously earned credits have been eliminated.

Also, municipalities cannot make a payment to another town or city to satisfy its COAH obligation. This was the case several years ago and it is why some residents Thumbnail has spoken to were (wrongly) sanguine when first told about the new obligation. Unfortunately they are mistaken. COAH in its infinite bureaucratic wisdom wants the low income housing built in every town in NJ – whether there are jobs or public transportation nearby. The lack of public transportation and nearby jobs could wipe out all or at least a portion of the savings from the low cost housing.

COAH rules also disregard local zoning and lack of infrastructure. Harding zones large lots in many areas – 3 and 5 acres. And most of the township has no sewer system or city water. Rather residents often have their own wells and septic beds. Too bad...COAH seems to assume that a township’s large lot zoning and lack of civil engineering infrastructure is a strategy to keep out low income people. So, COAH regulations trump local zoning and demand that the town provide water and sanitary infrastructure no matter the cost.

So the cost to build these required units could be very high given the high cost of land in Harding and the need to build infrastructure. The fact that the amount Harding and other municipalities will have to spend could put many more roofs over peoples’ heads in other locations is irrelevant. COAH and the judges that confirm it want the housing built in every single town and city in NJ no matter the cost or absence of jobs or transportation. It appears to be about social engineering rather than home building.

Lastly, COAH does not care about open space preservation. COAH’s mission and goals conflict rather directly with the mission and goals of another Trenton agency – Highlands Act which tries to preserve open space. A resident of a town that is attempting to preserve its rural character would be forgiven for feeling whipsawed by what comes out of Trenton and our courts.

Three County Roads in Harding to be Repaired.

Thanks to some dogged work by Mayor Nic Platt and a couple of citizens, the Morris County Freeholders have appropriated funds to repair (mill and repave) more roads in the county including Harding’s most damaged county roads.

The harsh winter and generally deferred maintenance did major damage to Harding roads. Most of our heavily traveled roads are county roads – Village, Spring Valley, Lee’s Hill and Blue Mill. As of a couple months ago, Harding’s county roads were not scheduled for repair this year. In fact the County was only planning on resurfacing 7-8% of county roads this year even though the roads have an estimated 10 year life – a life which would imply 10% resurfacing even without a harsh winter of repeated freezing and thawing. But in fairness to our Freeholders, the 7-8% plan was far greater than what was repaired 10-12 years ago when the total budget for road resurfacing was under \$1mm.

Mayor Platt’s lobbying effort began in January when he pledged to meet with all elected officials (28 in total) from the state assembly to neighboring mayors and all seven freeholders. He had one on one meetings that took place over breakfasts, lunches and dinners with each of the

freeholders. He attended Freeholder meetings in Morristown and three times during the public section of the meeting took the microphone to impress the importance of fixing county roads. In late April, Platt took David Scapicchio, the Freeholder liaison to the county public works department, on an automobile tour of all the county roads in Harding. That evening Mayor Platt enlisted a couple of Harding citizens (Bill Kearns and Steve Balog) to attend a meeting in Parsippany where the Freeholders were ratifying the budget. According to Freeholder Scapicchio the measured but well-reasoned pleas by the Harding contingent for road repair were the turning point in getting Freeholders Lyon and Krikus to agree to help find money.

The money was found and as of May 14, the 2014 Morris County road repair program includes milling and repaving the following: Lee’s Hill Road (from the county line to Bridge 507), Village Road (from Featherbed Land to Pleasantville Road); Spring Valley (from South Street to Blue Mill Road).

Gates & Posts & Post Lights -- To Be Regulated in the Future?

Regulating gates, gate posts and post lighting was the subject of an hour long discussion at the May 12 Township Committee Meeting. “Public safety” was the reason for need to create a regulation. The problem to be solved involves (1) emergency vehicle turning radius, (2) rear ends of visitor and service vehicles hanging out in the road while keypad codes are input, (3) post lights that are too bright and hamper drivers’ vision at night.

Paul Fox, the township engineer, presented a memo that recommended six items: (1) gate opening is 16 feet wide when open, (2) gates open away from the road, (3) gates are set back 30 feet from the edge of the road, (4) keypad controls must be 20 feet from the road edge, (5) codes for keypad should be provided to the police department, (6) all gates with a key pad should open automatically at the sound of a siren.

The proposed ordinance would include all these items AND would regulate post lighting. Any post lighting fixture would have to shield the lamp (aka bulb).

Existing gates, posts and post lighting would be grandfathered and not have to comply with the new code.

There was lengthy discussion on the issue including public comment. It appears that the issue and any proposed ordinance will be debated and discussed at TC meeting in the future. Citizen input is welcomed.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Highlights - Board of Education Meeting April 21, 2014

The meeting began with various student awards from recent competitions, and the room was filled with many proud parents and students. Since the awards were for specific achievements in a wide range of competitions, they are too complex to report here. Hopefully they will be showcased on the school website or in the Superintendent’s corner.

Two options for the 2014/15 school calendar were presented to the Board for vote. Both were very similar, and revolved around the sequence to take snow days should they be needed, instead of adding all the snow days at the end of the school year. In this way, fewer “teaching days” would be lost before state testing. The Board approved the schedule which is now posted on the website and elsewhere distributed.