

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since 1971”

www.HardingCivic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING Events

April 2017

HESNA PFEIFFER AWARD FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Call for Nominations

Hesna Pfeiffer, a long time HTCA Trustee and Thumbnail editor, was fiercely dedicated to the mission of the Civic Association -- to foster an informed and engaged citizenry. To honor her legacy upon her untimely passing, the trustees renamed the annual Distinguished Citizen Award to the Hesna Pfeiffer Award for Civic Engagement. Along with renaming the award, the trustees broadened the scope of the award to recognize individuals or groups whose more recent actions have benefited Harding Township; this way we can celebrate selfless actions of citizens of all ages - young, old and in between.

We ask our readers to reflect on the past year and recognize a person or group you feel has contributed to making Harding a great place. Your nomination for the 2017 Hesna Pfeiffer Award for Civic Engagement, along with a brief explanation, should be e-mailed to Submission@hardingcivic.org. If you prefer, mail your nomination to the HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION at PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976.

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION
2017 HARDING TOWNSHIP MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
SAVE THE DATE

We urge all our veterans, young and old, who have served our country, to march in the **Harding Memorial Day Parade on Monday May 29th** and accept the gratitude of our citizens. The parade steps off at 0930 hours from Harding Township School. For more information email Jake Hays at jakehays2d@aol.com

NEW VERNON VOLLENTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
New Vernon FD Auxiliary Soup/Chili Contest

We are sorry to inform you that we had to cancel our last Soup/Chili Contest. We were recently contacted by the Morris County Office of Health Management, and due to new health regulations, all soup and chili must be made in a commercial kitchen and not in private homes. Thank you to all those who helped support our soup/chili contests over the last 25 years.

NVVFD Aux. Fundraiser: Somerset Patriots Voucher Program

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 Dept.? The NVVFD Auxiliary is selling fundraising vouchers to the Somerset Patriots Minor League baseball games in Bridgewater. The vouchers are \$10.00 each, and can be redeemed for an upper box seat for any 2017 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 Bake Sale on Election Day, June 6th 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.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRST AIDE SQUAD
Save the Date!

Please join us at the Kemmerer Library on Thursday, April 20th between 5 and 7 p.m. for "Wine and Cheese" to meet the members of the First Aide Squad and learn how easy it is to become a member of the Squad. Join us in "Helping Your Neighbors".

GLEN ALPIN CONSERVANCY

Glen Alpin is on the Township Committee's agenda as they consider options presented by consultants Spinelli and Pinto. As choices are weighed, the Glen Alpin Conservancy wants you to know that:

- Glen Alpin is the finest Gothic Revival house in New Jersey. So stated Janet Foster, chair of the New Jersey Historic Trust (a state agency). We concur.
- The open space in front contains the graves of Peter Kemble and his family. Kemble was appointed to the Provincial Council, the upper house of the legislature that governed the colony of New Jersey, in 1745 under King George II. He became its president in 1764 under George III and remained so until 1775 when the council last met. The Kemble family was significant during the American Revolution and to the history of the Morristown National Historical Park. Peter Kemble, through his daughter Margaret who married General Thomas Gage, is an ancestor of the Viscounts of Firlie in East Sussex, England (see firle.com)
- The corner at the intersection of Tempe Wick Road and Mount Kemble Avenue is one of the most archaeologically sensitive areas on the property and was the site of a confrontation between mutineers and forces of General Anthony Wayne, who was occupying the Kemble house at the time. (The Kemble house was moved north of the current Glen Alpin site in 1847 when the stone Gothic Revival house was built.)
- Glen Alpin is an important contributing building and site in the Tempe Wick Road-Washington Corners Historic District on the state and National Register of Historic Places. The open corner at Glen Alpin is a gateway to this district.
- The land at Glen Alpin drains toward the Primrose Brook—still the cleanest brook in the Great Swamp watershed.

HARDING TOWNSHIP POLICE

Chief of Police, Mark Giansanti announces the opportunity for citizens to clear out the medicine cabinets and dispose of unwanted/unused drugs and medicines.

“Operation Take Back New Jersey” is a DEA sponsored event in which the Harding Township Police Department will be taking part. Any citizen can drop off their unwanted/unused medications in a container at police headquarters; No questions asked, No forms to fill, just simply place the drugs/medications in the container. The day of this event is - **Saturday, April 29th, 2017, 10am-2pm.**

- 1) This program is anonymous and all efforts should be made to protect the anonymity of individuals disposing of medications. No questions or requests for identification will be made. Individuals should deposit medication freely and independently.
- 2) No effort will be made by law enforcement to count, inventory, or log medications. Law enforcement personnel will not handle the medications at any time.
- 3) **A law enforcement officer must remain with the drug disposal box at all times.** The role of the law enforcement officer is to maintain and safe-guard the integrity of the disposed items.
- 4) Any individual may dispose of medication either in its original container or by removing medication from its container and depositing directly into the Drug Disposal Box. If the original container is submitted, the individual is encouraged to remove the prescription label if it contains any personal identifying information.
- 5) Liquid products, such as cough medicine, should remain sealed in their original container. The depositor should ensure that the cap is tightly sealed to prevent leakage.
- 6) **Syringes or other sharp objects will not be accepted.**
- 7) Once the event is completed, Harding officers will turn over all collected drugs/medications to the DEA for proper disposal.

If you have any questions, please contact the Harding Township Police Department at 973-455-0500 and press 0.

GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

April 2017 Calendar of Events.

Breakfast Briefing: Microplastics in Our Water

Tuesday, April 4, 2017 | 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Berkeley Heights YMCA

550 Springfield Avenue, Berkeley Heights, NJ

Microplastics can enter our water from personal care products - like the blue sparkles in certain brands of toothpastes, or the tiny plastic balls used in face washes as exfoliants, as well as from the breakdown of larger items, like Styrofoam containers and from clothing. Wastewater treatment plants are not equipped to remove the microplastics, and they never break down on their own. Once they make it to the river, fish and other aquatic life can ingest them. Join GSWA and NY/NJ Baykeeper's Sandra Meola as she discusses her fascinating studies on microplastics and their effect on our aquatic environments. A continental breakfast will be served. This event is sponsored by Investors Bank, Madison Branch. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or by calling (973) 538-3500.

Watchung Reservation Hike

Wednesday, April 26, 2016 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Watchung Reservation

452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, NJ

Join us for the next installment of "Downstream Adventures" Hiking at Watchung Reservation. We will be exploring scenic gorges, visiting the remnants of the deserted village of Feltville, following alongside the Blue Brook and marveling at Lake Surprise. This will be a difficult hike. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or by calling 973-538-3500.

Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, May 20, 2017 | 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Helen Fenske Visitor Center

32 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township NJ

We will provide you with a route to travel, questions to answer, and a list of treasures to find throughout the 55-square-mile Great Swamp Watershed region. It's your job to navigate to each treasure site, seek answers to the questions and riddles provided, and then return to Home Base with all your spoils.

A free cookout waits for all who participate, so don't forget your barbecue enthusiasm. We love it when our guests participate in the picnic! Feel free to bring along a covered side dish (to share or not). We'll supply the burgers, dogs, and drinks. This event is sponsored by Investors Bank, Madison Branch. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or by calling 973-538-3500.

Annual Home & Garden Tour

Wednesday, June 21, 2017, 10 AM - 3 PM

Starting location to be announced

Take a day to support GSWA as you find inspiration for your spring planting and decorating, and enjoy the warmth and renewal of this vibrant and colorful season! This year's tour will be a celebration of the enchanting gardens and elegant estates settled in the midst of the quiet and natural beauty of our beloved region. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or by calling 973-538-3500.

RAPTORS TRUST

"Bringing Up Birdie"

Saturday, April 29, 2017, 1:00 p.m.

Baby bird season is just around the corner! Find out about this amazing time in the lives of New Jersey's birds as they build their nests, lay their eggs, and begin to care for their hungry hatchlings. Take a close-up look at the Trust's collection of actual nests and eggs, peek in on the nests of several endangered NJ raptors by way of nest cam, and meet a live hawk or owl that nests in this state. We'll also find out more about what we can do to help all wild birds during this bird-busy time of year. Meet at Raptor Trust Education Center. 1452 White Bridge Rd. Millington, NJ. 07946. \$10 (7 years-adult) Registration required. Please call 908-647-1091

HARDING HUMANE SOLUTIONS

What was that "thud" you just heard at the window? Or, what happened to that small song bird you found dead under a window? Birds do not perceive glass as a barrier! They fail to realize that the window is there and fly smack into it with fatal results. Collisions with glass surfaces kill billions of, (yes that's billions with a "B"), birds every year. There are things you can do to help. Keep your blinds (whether open or closed) **down** if you can. This helps the birds understand that the windows are there and that they cannot fly through them. This is important 24/7 but especially at dusk and dawn when birds are most active and in the dark

when indoor lights attract them. Mount bird feeders right up against a window or no closer to a window than 30 feet. If you hear a "thud" investigate promptly. The bird may be dead, temporarily stunned or badly injured. A stunned immobile bird is vulnerable to predators and to the elements. Transfer the bird to a small box for its protection to see if it will revive as you seek help. Keeping a small box (with lid, lined with a rag) and a hand towel at the ready makes it easy to scoop up and transport any injured bird for medical attention at www.theraptortrust.org. Two excellent articles follow offering "homemade" or "available for sale" solutions to make window collisions less likely. If you own or operate a business, commercial applications are available. Or they can be as simple as hanging a large poster or sign on what would otherwise be a large imperceptible glass surface. Indoor spaces lighted at night behind large glass surfaces are particularly deadly. Finding dead birds can become so routine that building maintenance crews just pick up the dead bodies early each morning, before anyone else is even aware that they were there. Helpful links: <https://www.defenders.org/magazine/spring-2013/flying-clear> & http://www.duncraft.com/Window-Strike-Solutions?view_all

CITIZENS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPAC)

Save the Date!

Annual Children's Fishing Derby

Bayne Park-Saturday, April 8, 2017, 8AM to 11 AM

HARDING TOWNSHIP/GREEN VILLAGE BRIDLE PATH ASSOCIATION

April 2017 News & Events

Barn Safety Fire Clinic:

On February 11th, under the sponsorship of the HT/GV BPA, Margie Margentino, Manager of Lord Stirling Stables gave an informative presentation on safe practices and preparations in the prevention of barn fires as well as what to do in case of fire. The topics covered included: basic fire behavior, the reasons barns burn well, the causes of such fires, how to prevent fire in your barn, access for the fire department and emergency plans, the use of fire extinguishers and detection devices, fire drills and insurance.

Membership Drive:

The HT/GV BPA 2017 Membership Drive is underway, by now you should have received your 2017 Membership Renewal Letter. It's very important that you submit your renewal promptly, because in order

to maintain our insurance and right-of-way usage of easements on private property all riders that utilize the Harding Township/Green Village trails, must join.

2ND Quarter Meeting:

The HT/GV BPA 2nd Quarter Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4. During that meeting, we'll be planning our trail maintenance for the Spring, and firming up other key events! Watch for the scheduled dates on our web site www.bridlepath.org , as well as in the Thumbnail. Happy Trails and Spring.

HARDING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Meeting Highlights: February 22, 2017

All members were present.

Township Operating Budget. The 2017 Township operating budget was presented by CFO Himanshu Shah. The very informative slide presentation is on the Township website (www.hardingnj.org).

The CFO reported that in 2016 the Township Committee was responsible for about 25% of the total local taxation of Harding residents. Harding open space tax accounted for an additional about 3% of the taxes. Morris County accounted for 25% and Morris County open space amounted to another 1%. The local Harding school district accounted for 46% of total local taxation.

For 2017, the Harding budget has expenses of \$8.742M, of which \$5.578M (64%) will be raised by taxes. Comparable amounts for 2016 were \$8.737M and \$5.482M (63%). Harding Township receives no state aid. Department cost items equal \$5.606M of the total expense budget. 49% and 20% of the Department costs are for the Police Department and for the Department of Public Works, respectively.

The Township Committee has worked very hard to hold the costs down for health expenses, while still providing good services for employees. For 2017, health expenses will actually decrease by about 1%. The budget also includes a 2% cost of living increase for employees.

Harding will “save” \$381K in bond principal and interest this year, from the retirement in 2016 of a bond. Harding has outstanding debt of \$5.9M (debt service will be \$619K in 2017) and retains its enviable AAA bond

rating. Current debt will be paid by 2028. However, the Township Committee warned that possible debt for future affordable housing could be looming on the horizon.

The net valuation of Harding (decreases in valuation from successful tax appeals and increases from new construction) is \$2,006,548,979 a decrease of 0.03% from 2016 (2,007,139,768).

Harding tax rate for 2017 will be 0.278/\$100 valuation, an increase of 1.8% from 2016.

The Township Committee has not decided on the Open Space tax for 2017. It is currently 4 cents/\$100 valuation (same as in 2015 and 2016; increased from 3.5 cents in 2014).

Township Capital Budget: After considerable public discussion, the Township Committee proposed a capital budget of \$700K for 2017, an increase of \$200K from 2016. The increase in capital budget is largely funded by a portion of the savings in bond principal and interest. The capital budget maintains Harding's ability to pay-as-you-go on major expenses with lifetimes of five years and more. Administrator Gail McKane maintains a ten-year rolling capital plan for Harding, ensuring that pay-as-you-go is held to.

The operating and capital budgets will be adopted at a public hearing on March 20.

Other business: Class II Special Law Enforcement Officer Alexandru Nastase was sworn in for service in Harding. He is a 2016 graduate of the Cape May Police Academy.

The Township Committee voted unanimously to award a contract to Verizon Communications for a cell tower at the DPW site. Details of the contract are under negotiation. This site is a replacement for the site that currently exists at the New Vernon firehouse. The Committee noted that a site in the center of Harding is especially needed for 911 services in that area.

The Committee made an appointment to the Planning Board and several appointments to the Hunting Policy Committee.

Administrator McKane will be retiring at the end of March, and eventually moving to South Dakota. Her replacement is currently being sought, with a part-time interim Administrator to be hired until a

replacement is found. A reception for Ms. McKane will be held on March 30. The Township Committee expressed its sincere regrets in her departing Harding.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April Events:

The Center for Musical Excellence cordially invites the community to a concert on **Saturday, April 1 at 5 p.m.** in the Church Sanctuary, featuring CME founder, director, and celebrated pianist, **Min Kwon**, and **Jonathan Spitz**, Princial Cello of the NJ Symphony and a member of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. On the program is music by Arensky, Prokofiev, and Rachmaninoff. Admission is \$20 at the door. Don't miss this opportunity to hear two distinguished musicians performing in New Vernon!

The Sunday Speaker Series presents Part 2 of Raising Children: It's Not Rocket Science, It's Harder! on **Sunday, April 2 at 11:15 a.m.** with Catherine Morrisett and Nunzio Gubitosa of Grace Counseling Center in Madison. Learn how to elicit essential information in unpredictable family moments and gain insights to help you raise confident children. Even if you didn't attend Part 1, you are bound to be inspired by the continuation of this insightful topic.

Something exciting is about to happen: **Messy Church!**, a fun new way for children and their families to experience church interactively. On **Saturday, April 22 from 4-6 p.m.** there will be a Bible story, crafts and activities for all to enjoy, followed by a light supper. Children of all ages are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. We hope you will join us!

Be sure to sign up for Good Health Begins at the End of Your Fork, a workshop and cooking demonstration on **Tuesday, April 25 from 11:30 until 1:30** at Fellowship Hall. Learn techniques and tips to help you and your family eat more healthfully and eliminate mealtime stress. Proper nutrition today can affect both physical health and mood. You are cordially invited to experience the how-to of healthful eating through healthful cooking with a registered dietician nutritionist from Living Plate of Far Hills. To reserve a spot, email Barbara Coe at waffecoe@aol.com and put April 25th in the subject line, or call her at 973-425-4088.

HARDING TOWNSHIP RECREATION ASSOCIATION

T-Ball Registration is now open for grades K-2 Harding residents. This season will run from April 28 to June 9, 2017. Email tball@HTRA.info for more information.

Summer Camp Registration Is Now Open!

Camp will run from June 26th through July 28th (with no camp on July 4th). <http://htra.info/summer-camp/>

Coming Soon: Spring Tennis Clinic!

Look for registration information on the HTRA website: www.HTRA.info

HARDING TOWNSHIP SENIORS

April Events:

April 5, 2017 Harding Township Board of Education's annual breakfast held for Harding Township Seniors will be on April 5, Wednesday, in Harding Elementary School's Cafeteria at 8:45-10:00 A.M. Students serve and greet the seniors after which the various grade levels present a program of their musical accomplishments.

April 27- Thursday- Spring Membership Luncheon for Harding Township Seniors will be held at Charlie Brown's at 12 noon

KEMMERER LIBRARY:

Programs: April 2017

Winter Hours: Monday-Friday: 10-5 | Saturday: 10-2 | Sunday: Closed.

Unless otherwise noted, we ask that you register for our programs in advance. Please visit our website: www.hardinglibrary.org or call us for registration: 973-267-2665.

Children's Programs:

Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m. Toddler Time: Young children, ages 9 - 24 months, and their caregivers are invited to join Mrs. Marchev and Miss Kryssi every Tuesday for stories, movement, songs, simple crafts, and a snack. No registration required.

Friday, April 7, 3:45 - 4:45 pm: Busy Bees! Children, ages 6 and up, are invited to join Dr. Maxwell and Mrs. Newlin in getting our bee equipment ready for spring and summer. We'll be painting hive-boxes, assembling honey frames, learning about bee-biology, and, if weather permits, check how our hives are doing. Wear old clothes, please. A snack will be provided. Registration required, please.

Friday, April 21, 3:45 - 4:45 pm. Earth Day Crafternoon: Celebrate Earth Day by having fun with recycled art and useful objects to take home. Children, ages 6 and up. Registration requested, please.

Saturday, April 22, 1:00 - 2 p.m. Beehive Inspection: Residents of all ages are invited to join the beekeepers for a close-up and personal look at the Library's two hives. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Thursday, April 27, 3:45 - 4:45 pm: Garden Art: Tuesday, May 2, is National Teacher Appreciation Day. Children, ages 5 and up, are invited to design beautiful postcards featuring spring flowers from Harding Township's fields and gardens. Each participant will take home a set of postcards. Registration requested, please.

New at the Library: College Prep Workshops for High School Students (and Their Parents): 4 Sundays, 4 - 5:30 p.m. We are the lucky recipients of a generous grant to sponsor this important program, led by Katie Boyer, local resident and independent college consultant with many years of experience in the field. Each session will feature expert panelists. Refreshments will be served. Registration required, please.

Sunday, April 23: Looking beyond the bumper sticker - How soon should families start thinking about the college process? How can families find schools where a student will thrive? Should students do test prep? What things can students do outside of the classroom to improve chances of getting into college? This session will focus on how to manage the four years of high school, when to start the college search, and how to find a school that matches your child's strengths and learning style. *Parents are cordially invited to join this introductory session.*

Sunday, April 30: Application Anxiety - Applying to colleges can feel stressful. What standardized test should I take? How and when do I send my scores? How do I send a transcript? What about recommendations? How many schools should I apply to? What should I write my essay about? Do I need to interview at my schools? Should I use the Common App, the Coalition App, or a school application? Should I

apply Early Action, Early Decision, or Regular Decision? The application process can feel overwhelming. We will help make sense of choices available to students.

Sunday, May 7: They've picked me. Now I have to pick one of them. How do I pick which college to attend? - During this session, we will discuss all of the things to consider when making your final selection. We will discuss financial aid, scholarships, and overall cost of college. Other considerations might be majors, activities, distance from home, Greek life, and Job/Grad School placement. Helping a student pick the best fit requires looking at a variety of factors.

Sunday, May 21: Making the transition to college. "Toto, we're not in high school anymore..." For many students, college is the first time they will live independently. In this session we will discuss navigating new friendships, the realities of college parties, how to manage time, taking care of one's physical and mental health, and learning how to manage personal finances.

Adult Programs:

Wednesday, April 5, 3-5 p.m.: Lotte's Low Cost Floral Decorating. Just in time for Passover and Easter. Join the librarian for a hands-on demonstration of "foraged" plant materials. Bring a small container and your clippers. Registration required, please.

Tuesday, April 18, 1:30 p.m.: Daytime Book Group. Join our new, lively book group to discuss our April pick: Girl Waits with Gun by Amy Stewart. "Constance Kopp, the novel's feisty heroine sounds like the creation of a master crime writer. At nearly 6 feet tall, Constance is a formidable character who can pack heat, deliver a zinger and catch a criminal without missing a beat. Based on the little-known story of the real Constance Kopp, one of America's first female deputy sheriffs, the novel is an entertaining and enlightening story of how far one woman will go to protect her family. No registration required. All are welcome.

Painting with Acrylics. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon. If you are interested in continuing art classes with Barbara Gerson of Art4All, please contact us. We are looking to possibly start a drop-in class and would like to know if there is an interest. Fee applies. The Library will supply paints. Participants are asked to bring brushes and canvases. Please register at www.hardinglibrary.org.

Weekly Activities

Gentle Yoga, Mondays 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. Now in its 7th year, MJ Turnbull's outstanding and hugely popular classes are continuing. \$10 suggested donation per class, please.

New! Iyengar Yoga with Ellen Twill, Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m. Please e-mail ellentwill@msn.com to register. \$10 donation per class, please.

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

Canasta/Pinochle Club, Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m. By popular demand we are adding a "Canasta Only" afternoon for players of all experience levels. Please be sure to register in advance at www.hardinglibrary.org, so we can be sure to have the correct number of participants.

Card Club, Fridays, 10:00 a.m.-12 noon. Canasta, Shanghai Rummy, and more! Social play. All levels are welcome.

Friends of Kemmerer Library Present:

Art in Bloom 2017

Preview Party: Friday, April 28, 6-9 p.m.

Open House: Saturday, April 29, 9-11 a.m.

**Support your Library by joining the Friends at the party
and art show by local artists and artisans.**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Highlights: Monday March 13, 2017

Board Budget: Superintendent Matt Spelker presented details of the 2017-2018 Harding Township school operating budget. This budget presentation follows the initial discussion of the budget at the January 9th Board meeting, as reported in the February 2017 Thumbnail. The Board Finance committee (Abi Singh and Richard Bruno) and the Board approved this budget after its presentation. The budget will now be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent (ECS) for its approval. As the Superintendent reported in January, the three guidelines for the budget are

- With the exception of union contractual obligations, the budget process is zero-based, line-by-line
- Current 2016-2017 spending patterns are analyzed for trends
- Budget projections are made for up to 18 months in the future

The Superintendent said that the 2017-2018 school budget meets these guidelines, maintains staffing configurations and all co-curricular activities (clubs, athletics, etc.), provides for professional development and curriculum writing, includes capital projects such as the HVAC system in the gymnasium and elementary school, and continues the integration of technology at all grade levels.

The Superintendent's slide presentation is posted on the District website (www.hardingtwp.org) and contains budgetary details.

Total school budget 2017-2018: \$11,532,481 = Increase of \$14,709 (0.13%) from 2016-2017
Total raised from local taxes: \$10,052,092 = Increase of \$146,671 (1.48%) from 2016-2017
(tax levy was 2.9% in 2016-2017)

N.J. State Aid in the 2017-2018 budget is \$238,834, the same as 2016-2017.

The budget includes Madison High School tuition of \$1.6M. Harding enrollment in Madison is 98 students for the 2016-2017 year, and is projected to be about 109 students for the 2017-2018 year. The Madison tuition cost for Harding is a fixed amount and will stay this amount through the 2019-2020 school year.

As reported previously in the Thumbnail, Harding current enrollment K-8 is 317 students, an increase of 11 students over 2015-2016.

The fact that the budget increase of 1.48% comes in lower than the state mandated limit of 2% means that the District will have a “banked capital” amount of \$51,437 available for use until the 2020-2021 school year should it be needed for future operations.

Upon questions from the Board and the public present, the Superintendent assured that the budget was not skimping on any educational needs, and that the future was not being mortgaged.

After approval by the Executive County Superintendent, it is expected that the Board will adopt the budget at the public hearing on April 24.

Superintendent Report. Superintendent Spelker reported that the next District articulation meeting with interim Madison Superintendent Noonan would be March 30.

Curriculum and Instruction. Chairperson John Flynn reported that the summer session of curriculum writing and revision will include both the reading program and the science program in grades K-5. He also reported that discussions are underway with a committee of teachers to evaluate and likely revise the report card for grades K-5. It was stated that parent involvement would be a part of the revision project.

Madison Report. Abi Singh, Harding Board voting representative on the Madison Board of Education, reported that the Madison superintendent search continues with a professional search firm. He also reported that at its last meeting (February 28) the Madison Board adopted its 2016-2017 goals, and is beginning to evaluate possible capital projects following the completion of the major middle school and high school STEM enhancements that will be completed in August.

Board of Education Meeting Highlights: Monday February 27, 2017

Recognizing successes of Harding school students in both athletics and academics dominated the Board meeting.

Athletics. The Board recognized the presence of the 15 middle school Harding girls' basketball team and their two coaches. The girls' team finished in second place in the championship middle school tournament held in Whippany on February 4. The girls reported that the spectator stands were filled with cheering Harding students, parents, and teachers for their victories and successes.

Academics. The Board recognized the presence of the two middle school Harding teams and their science teacher coach who participated in the Future Cities competition ("The Power of Public Space") on January 14 at Rutgers Livingston campus (<http://futurecity.org/new-jersey>). Each Harding team was composed of 5 girls. One of the Harding teams placed 5th out of 85 participating New Jersey schools, a very fine showing for the District. These students are participants in the Harding school's Jr. Technical Student Association, which meets once per week at 7:30am, prior to formal classes.

Board Business. Upon their second reading, the Board unanimously passed the 45 Board Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations that by state statute require changes, modifications, and/or introduction for 2017. The Board president and chair of the Policy Committee, Davor Gjivoje, had introduced these Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations in an extensive and lengthy first reading in the meeting of February 6.

Superintendent Report. Superintendent Matt Spelker reported on a continuation of his articulation meetings with the Madison interim school superintendent. His most recent meeting was the morning of the Board meeting. Superintendent Spelker reported that the budgets of both districts were discussed and Madison's superintendent does not foresee the need for any cuts to existing programs or curricula due to budget constraints in the 2017-2018 school year. The next articulation meeting will be March 30 and be devoted to issues of school safety.

The next tentative school budget will be presented to the public at the March 13th Board meeting.

Executive Session. The Board entered into executive session to discuss teacher contract negotiations. No action was taken upon re-convening in open session.

(Note: the purpose of this brief report is to help Harding residents connect with the School by highlighting significant items addressed by the Board and are not "meeting minutes". Those 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.)

GREEN VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Upcoming Events

Community Shred: Saturday, April 1, 2017 from 9 a.m. to noon

Hosted by the Green Village Fire Department Auxiliary

All are welcome to bring their personal and business documents for shredding. Sensitive information will be destroyed on-site by a truck-mounted shredder provided by Absolute Shredding, LLC of Hackettstown. Not only will this fund-raiser protect privacy and help avoid identity theft, it will also help to protect the environment as all the shredded paper will be recycled into other paper products. The cost will be \$5 per file box/brown paper grocery bag. Larger containers/bags will be priced accordingly. No newspapers, magazines, books or binders please. All proceeds from this fund-raiser will benefit the Auxiliary for fire scene relief, training and community outreach. This event will be held rain or shine. Additional information can be found at greenvillagefire.com

Sporting Clays and Pig Roast: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 9 a.m.

Hosted by the Green Village Fire Department

The annual event will be held at Miele Field, located at the end of Britten Road in Green Village. The event is a 100 Target Lewis Fun Shoot. The entry fee is \$125 which includes lunch. There is an additional \$10 Lewis Cash Option. Pre-registration is requested. For more information or to download a registration form please visit our website at www.greenvillagefire.com. No shot size larger than 7 1/2 will be allowed and eye and ear protection is required.

Indoor Flea Market: Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Hosted by the Green Village Fire Department Auxiliary

The Auxiliary of the Green Village Fire Department is hosting an indoor Flea Market with 20+ vendors. A wide range of items will be available - antiques, children's toys, jewelry, housewares, books, clothing, and much, much more. Home baked goods will be available as well. The sale will be held rain or shine. Parking is free. For questions, please contact Janet Doherty at 973-377-4071.

If you are interested in renting table space, please use the 'Tickets Available' link or go to the "Calendar Details" page on our website at www.greenvillagefire.com. to download a form. Table space is limited and will be rented on a "first come, first serve" basis.

HARDING TOWNSHIP ENVIROMENTAL COMMISSSION

Spring Clean-Up: The Harding Township Environmental Commission invites volunteers to help with our spring cleaning. On Saturday April 22rd we are planning a community wide effort to beautify the roads in our community. Our plan is for residents, volunteers, and community groups to take the time to pick up any roadside litter that may have accumulated over the winter. Beginning from Kirby Town Hall at 9:00AM interested groups and individuals will be directed to a road or public area targeted for clean-up. The township will be providing gloves, trash bags and safety vests for volunteers.

Harding Land Trust will be joining us for their annual tree give away from 9:00 AM until Noon. Over 800 rooted saplings of various species will be available free to residents for planting. The saplings were provided by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

This event qualifies for community extracurricular volunteer service hours under programs recognized by the local school communities.

If you have questions regarding this community effort please contact d1_zn1rmtmp1@att.net .

Meeting Highlights: March 1, 2017

The February minutes were approved.

The top soil excavated during the construction of the walking paths around Bayne Park will be stock piled and given to the Harding Land Trust for the Primrose Property.

The organization and identification of healthy flora by the scientific method will be explored at two sites. The Commission was asked to consider the environmental impact of a matter before the Board of Adjustment

HARDING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Harding Township Historical Society welcomes four new members to its Board of Trustees, Betty d'Esterhazy, Nancy Priscu, Sally Quinn, and Dennis Terrell.

We are planning our Open House for the day of the Memorial Day Parade, Monday, May 29th, 2017. We will be at the Tunis-Ellicks House immediately following the events at Memorial Park. Please stop by and say hello.

A long-term “Save-the-Dates” for our Preview Party (Friday, November 3, 2017) and Antiques Show and Sale (Saturday-Sunday, November 4 & 5, 2017).

HARDING LAND TRUST

Free Tree Seedlings--In coordination with the Environmental Commission's **Road Side Cleanup Day**, the Harding Land Trust is pleased to offer Harding residents the opportunity to adopt up to 5 free 2-4' high bare root tree seedlings. Distribution will take place on Saturday April 22nd from 9am-12pm at the Harding Township Municipal Building, 21 Blue Mill Road. If interested, please call the Harding Land Trust at 973-267-2515.

Please join us to help keep Harding clean and beautiful.

Harding Land Trust Annual Meeting--Please join the Harding Land Trust for their Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 6th at the New Vernon Fire House. Bill Kibler, Director of Policy for the Raritan Headwaters Association, will be the guest speaker. The program is entitled, “Ground and Groundwater: How Land Use Effects Water Quality in Northern New Jersey”. Bill will provide some practical advice for homeowners on how to protect our local water quality. Dessert and wine will be served at 6:30 followed by the business meeting and guest speaker at 7:00 p.m. Please R.S.V.P. by calling 973-267-2515.

MORRIS COUNTY VOTER INFORMATION

2017 Voter Registration Deadline

New Jersey Primary Election is on June 6, 2017. To vote in the primary, voters must be registered as Unaffiliated (declare the day of the primary), Republican, or Democrat. The deadline for such declaration is April 12. Information on the process for Harding residents can be found at <http://elections.morriscountynj.gov>.

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for **May 2017 Thumbnail** please email to: HTCA@mail.com by Friday, April 14, 2017. **MS Word** is the preferred format, thank you!

Upcoming Thumbnail Schedule:

June 2017 Thumbnail deadline: May 19th

September 2017 Thumbnail deadline: August 18th

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

HARDING TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

2017 Recycling Schedule

APR 8 TH , 22 ND	MAY 6 TH , 20 TH	JUNE 3 RD , 17 TH
JULY 1 ST , 15 TH , 29 TH	AUG 12 TH , 26 TH	SEPT 9 TH , 23 RD
OCT 7 TH , 21 ST	NOV 4 TH , 18 TH	DEC 2 ND , 16 TH , 30 TH

Hours of Operation:

Wednesdays: 7 am. - Noon (7- 9am self service)

Every other Saturday: 9 am - noon (see schedule dates)

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 Department: 973 267 2448, Mon- Fri 8:30 am to 3 pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Environmental Commission
Seniors: Christ the King Church
Planning Board
Historical Preservation Committee
Board of Health
Board of Education
Board of Adjustment
Township Committee
Harding Open Space
Harding TWP Civic Association

Meetings as noted

1st Wednesday
2nd & 4th Thursday
4th Monday
1st Thursday
2nd Thursday
1st & 3rd Monday
3rd Thursday
1st & 2nd Monday
2nd Wednesday
2nd Tuesday

Time

7:30 PM
11:00AM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM