

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 7:30 PM
2nd & 4th Thursday 11:00AM
4th Monday 7:30 PM
1st Thursday 7:30 PM
2nd Thursday 7:30 PM
1st & 3rd Monday 7:30 PM
3rd Thursday 7:30 PM
1st & 2nd Monday 7:30 PM
2nd Wednesday 7:30 PM
2nd Tuesday 7:30 PM

Time

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since 1971”

www.HardingCivic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS: February 2016

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. Last year, to honor her legacy upon her untimely passing, last year the trustees renamed the annual Distinguished Citizen Award to the Hesna Pfeiffer Award for Civic Engagement. Along with the 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 2016 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 HTCA at PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976.

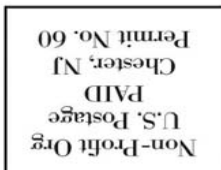
HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION

2016 HARDING TOWNSHIP MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

We urge all our veterans, young and old, who have served our country to march in the Harding Memorial Day Parade on May 28th 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

DATED MATERIAL

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



This year Harding Township Civic Association would like to add a few elements to the Parade, including a show of patriotism from your family pets who are invited to march in costume. In addition, if you know of anyone who would like to showcase his or her classic car, please let us know at info@hardingcivic.org or by calling 973-539-9398.

HTCA: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

While the Trustees of the HTCA sponsor the Memorial Day Parade and the new Harding Fall Dog Festival, we encourage **all residents of all ages** to become involved in the planning and execution of these community events. New energy and ideas are always welcome! Please join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, February 9th at 7:30pm at the Kemmerer Library when we begin planning these extraordinary events.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Highlights: Board of Education Meeting 1-04-2016

Board Organization: The reorganization meeting of the Board of Education saw the taking of the oath of office by Board members John Flynn and Howard Kotkin who had been re-elected in November. By unanimous vote of the five member Board, Davor Gjivoje and John Flynn were re-elected as Board President and Vice President, respectively. President Gjivoje indicated that the membership rosters for the Board committees would be developed, and announced at the January 18th public meeting.

Budget. A preliminary report on the school budget (fiscal year beginning July 2016) was presented by Superintendent Matt Spelker. The budget remains a work in progress as the Superintendent and Business Administrator, Bob Brown work on the discretionary portion of the budget. Major budget assumptions include no change in staffing levels and no change in overall enrollment. About 80% of the budget is fixed in terms of salaries and benefits, and about 5% of the budget is devoted to paying off the school debt (which expires in July 2018). It is anticipated that health benefit costs and dental costs will increase by 10%-12% and by 5%, respectively, this year. Out-of-district placement costs for special education students (always a difficult expense to predict) is expected to increase by 4%-6%. The Board is in its second year of the faculty contract, which calls for a 2.6% increase in salaries. Thus, the Administration indicated that it is using a zero-based budget process for handling the non-fixed (discretionary) portion of the budget. Some of the discretionary expenses this year will likely include paving the school parking areas and a new heating/cooling system for the gymnasium.

changing and can seem scary. Join us for a discussion on the gracious discernment of difficult issues.

January 31: Dennis Corcoran, pastoral associate at our neighbor Church of Christ the King, will update us on the impact that Pope Francis continues to have on Christians worldwide. Don't miss this fascinating speaker. Coffee and light refreshments are served.

Both presentations begin at 11:30 and last for about one hour.

TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

Hours of Operation:

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

Every other Saturday: 9 am - noon

February Recycling Dates: 13th and 27th

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 CIVIC ASSOCIATION:

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for February 2016 Thumbnail please email by Friday January 15th by 5pm. **MS Word is the preferred format, thank you!**

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

Chaucer's classic tale, the characters are a group of women walking the pilgrim route from London to Canterbury - on the way, they each tell their story. In turn, funny, poignant, insightful, and just plain good company. iPad Workshop with Lara Rouillard, Tuesday, February 16, 11:00 a.m.-12 noon. Start the new year with a clean-up and updating session for your iPad or iPhone. Our tech expert, Lara Rouillard is ready to help. Registration requested, please.

The Therapeutic Benefits of Roses with Cheryl Karcher, Clinical Herbalist and Proprietor of Hilltop Herbals, Tuesday, February 23, 11 a.m.-12 noon. Join us for a fun and informative program on the heart and soul of the Rose. We will discuss the history of Rose, aromatherapy, rose as food and practical applications of Rose as an herbal therapy. Sip some herb tea, enjoy rose cookies and sample rose tincture. Registration requested, please.

Evening at the Library - Author Talk with Elena Gorokhova, Wednesday, February 17, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Meet the author of Russian Tattoo, a beautifully written and keenly observed memoir describing her experiences as a young Russian immigrant to the United States in the 1980s. Refreshments will be served. Registration requested, please.

Evening Book Group, Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 p.m.: Join us monthly for refreshments and lively discussions. This month's title is Troublemaker: Surviving Hollywood and Scientology by Leah Remini. The outspoken actress and talk show host offers up a no-holds-barred memoir, including an eye-opening insider account of her tumultuous and heart-wrenching longtime association with the Church of Scientology.

Weekly Activities

Monday Morning Yoga, Mondays 10:30 a.m.-12 noon, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.. MJ Turnbull teaches gentle yoga. \$10 suggested donation per class.

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

Canasta Club, Fridays, 10:00 a.m.-12 noon. Social play. All levels are welcome.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON

The First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon cordially invites Harding residents and friends to attend the *Sunday Speaker Series* periodically held in Fellowship Hall after worship. **January 24:** Larissa Kwong Abazia, Vice Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Director of Church Relations at Princeton Theological Seminary. The world around us is ever

The school budget revenue history shows increases of 1.78% (2012-2013), 1.5% (2013-2014), 2.6% (2014-2015), and estimated 2.89% (2015-2016). The latter two increases are inclusive of allowable exemptions by law (e.g., for health benefit increases and banked capital accumulated from prior years).

Future budget presentations will occur on February 22 (Preliminary Budget II), March 21 (Tentative Budget formally presented to the Board), and April 18 (Public Hearing on budget).

Curriculum. As previously reported, the Board has established a policy for monthly curriculum presentations. The January presentation was by Middle School English teacher Lisa Werner on the use of Google Docs in the classroom for enhanced learning and teacher-student interactions and assessments of learning. A committee of faculty has devoted themselves to developing the use of this educational enhancement and to advising all faculty on the methodology and practices. Several parents at the Board meeting expressed very positive perspectives on this program in the context of their observations of their children's use and performance.

The curriculum presentation at the February 1st Board meeting will be by the Middle School science teacher, Dr. Michael Gervis. The topic will cover Next Generation Science Standards.

The Board entered into executive session to discuss the sending-receiving contract with the Madison school district.

(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". 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.)

NEW VERNON FIRST AID SQUAD

2015 was a Busy Year for New Vernon First Aid Squad—Volunteers Needed

Last year was a busy year for the volunteers of the New Vernon First Aid Squad. In 2015 the Squad responded to 302 emergency calls. These included 6 CPR calls, 73 medical calls, 41 falls/fractures, 40 motor vehicle accidents, 23 calls for shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, 9 bicycle falls, 7 seizures, 6 calls for fainting, 5 lacerations, and 3 calls for strokes. Beyond responses to private residences and local Harding Streets, the Squad responded to calls at the Harding School, Wightman's Farm, the Minuteman Restaurant, Jockey Hollow Park, The Great Swamp, Interstate 287, as well as mutual aid calls to surrounding communities like Morristown, Madison, and Basking Ridge. One of

the calls to Jockey Hollow involved a hiker who was one mile down a hiking trail. Squad EMT's worked with the U.S. Park Service to bring the patient to the ambulance and provide transport to the hospital. Two of the motor vehicle accidents involved a car into a building— one at the Great Swamp Visitor Center and one at the Village Bistro restaurant. The squad also responded with two ambulances to a severe accident on I-287 in November that had three fatalities, over 12 patients, and included a total of eight ambulances (6 from neighboring communities), two paramedic units, and two air-medical helicopters. This was a call where we worked in partnership with our parent Volunteer Fire Department, which quickly and effectively extricated patients trapped in a van. Our Fire Department is also actively recruiting volunteers for this essential community role.

In October the squad provided free CPR training to 16 members of our local community. In November the squad did its annual CPR re-training for both its own members as well as for the entire Harding Township Police Department. The squad carries and is qualified to administer Naloxone for Opiate overdoses, epinephrine auto-injectors for anaphylactic shock, an automatic external defibrillator (AED) for cardiac arrest, supplemental oxygen, chewable aspirin for cardiac related chest pain, and glucose for diabetic emergencies. It also carries the usual assortment of splints, bandages, instruments for assessing patient vital signs, and devices to lift, carry and transport patients. The Squad is dispatched by the Morris County Office of Emergency Management through the 911 call center. The First Aid Squad is comprised entirely of volunteer members and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to serve New Vernon.

Volunteers Needed! The squad needs at least 7 new members in 2016 in order to continue to serve the community with excellence. New members are needed both as EMT's and separately as drivers—the Squad provides all the training. To join, you can send an email to joinus@nvvfd.org, call and leave a message at 973-538-1277 option 3, or visit the squad website at www.nvvfd.org.

HARDING TOWNSHIP PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

AN EVENING OF COMEDY - Featuring Michael Somerville

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26th from 7 pm-11 pm, at The Bernards Inn

The Harding Township PTO invites you to an 'Evening of Comedy' featuring Michael Somerville (as seen on David Letterman). Come out for a fun-filled night of dinner, laughs and raffles and help raise money for Harding Township School. Get your tickets fast, there is limited seating! RSVP by Monday Feb

springtime depends on a few unassuming puddles of water on the forest floor. Registration Required. Register online at www.greatswamp.org, or by calling (973) 538-3500 x 22.

KEMMERER LIBRARY:

Programs: February 2016

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 or call us for registration: 973-267-2665.

Children's Programs:

Storytime for Toddlers: Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. Toddlers and their caregivers or parents are invited to come for songs, exercise, games, stories, crafts, and a snack. No registration necessary.

Kemmerer Kids Klub: Mondays, 3:45-5:00 p.m. Come in and chill out at the Library. Our Children's Librarian, Mrs. Butler, is ready to help with homework and suggest great books to take home. For children ages 7 and up.

5th Grade Service Program to Monday, February 22, 3:45-4:30 p.m. Start the New Year by doing something good. The Library is looking to start a "Books for Buddies" service program collecting gently used, age-appropriate books for 5th graders in under-resourced schools in New Jersey. If you are interested in being part of this project, join Mrs. Butler the last Monday of the month.

STEM Sundays are back! Sunday, February 7, 3-3:45 p.m. Join us for hands-on fun as we do experiments like building structures with toothpicks and marshmallows, creating balloon powered Lego cars, and more. 2nd graders and up are invited. Please register at www.hardinglibrary.org.

3rd and 4th Grade Winter Book Club: Wednesdays, February 10 and 24, 3:45-4:30 p.m. Calling All Readers in Grades 3 and 4. If you love to read and like to talk about the books you like, our winter book club is the place for you! Please register at www.hardinglibrary.org.

3rd Annual Haiku Competition: Harding residents in grades 1 and up are invited to don their poetry hats and compose a Valentine themed haiku. Grand prize: A giant Valentine teddy bear. Deadline for submission: **Thursday, February 11.** Winners will be announced Wednesday, February 17. Submission forms and haiku help will be available at the Library.

Adult Programs:

Morning Book Group, Tuesday, February 9, 11:00 a.m. This month's selection is *Canterbury Sisters* by Kim Wright. In this modern retelling of

Thursday, March 3, 7PM at Washington Headquarters, Ford Mansion, Morristown

An American River, From Paradise to Superfund, Afloat on New Jersey's Passaic, with Author Mary Bruno

Author Mary Bruno will read from her novel and present on her kayaking travels from the headwaters of the Passaic to Newark bay. The Passaic rises in a pristine wetland and ends in a federal superfund site. Part natural history, part personal history, and part rollicking adventure, this narrative is about the power of water and the intrigue of New Jersey's longest river. Registration not required. Visit www.greatswamp.org for more information.

Welcome Spring Hike

Sunday, March 20, 10AM - 11:30AM at Great Swamp Watershed's Conservation Management Area, 1 Tiger Lily Lane, Harding

Join us on the first day of spring to look for signs of renewing life on this morning hike. Skunk cabbages will be peaking through the snow, new buds will be forming on trees, and spring migrants will be returning from their winter destinations. Although it may feel as though winter will be with us forever, these signs of spring will be sure to brighten your day. Registration required. Register online at www.greatswamp.org, or by calling (973) 538-3500 x 22.

Saturday, April 2, 10AM - 11:30AM at Jockey Hollow, Morristown
Natural and National History Hike

Not only will you learn to identify that Tulip Poplar in front of you with its unique seed cones, flowers, and leaves, but you'll also learn that because of its tendency to have an incredibly straight trunk, this tree was a favorite among Native Americans and earlier settlers for building. Registration required. Register online at www.greatswamp.org, or by calling (973) 538-3500 x 22.

Friday, April 15, 6PM - 8PM at GSWA's Conservation Management Area, 1 Tiger Lily Lane, Harding: **Spring Peeper Hike**

With temperatures rising, the forest floor will be hopping with new life as frogs and other amphibians crowd into shallow puddles of water to breed and lay their eggs. These puddles—better known as vernal pools—provide a perfect opportunity to learn more about Mother Nature here in New Jersey. Discover the differences between a spring peeper, a chorus frog, and a wood frog. Find out how far an endangered spotted salamander will walk to find a mating pool. And, learn how much everything we have come to appreciate about the

15th, \$100 per person, \$110 after Feb 15th. Casual Dress.

Pay for tickets or make donations online at:

<https://squareup.com/store/hardingpto>

For more information, please contact htspto@hardingtwp.org.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Meeting Note: January 2016

2016 Budget Introduced

All members were in attendance.

Township Committee awarded 12 contracts for services - 5 legal, audit, engineering, 2 insurance, bond counsel, planner and tree officer. The firms and individuals were appointed at the re-organization meeting and now the contracts have been formally approved.

The preliminary 2016 Budget was presented and discussed at this meeting. Formal introduction of the budget will occur at the February TC meeting while public hearing and adoption will be in March. March will also see the introduction of the 2016 Capital Budget for long lived items.

The preliminary budget calls for a 1% increase in spending to \$8.612 million and increase of \$119.7K. This would require an approximate 1.9% increase in property taxes - this is more than the spending increase because the taxable base (the assessed property value) continues to slide (by about \$13mm or about 1%) as it has for years due to tax successful appeals and open space purchases.

To put your property tax bill in context, remember that it funds five entities - Harding Schools (about 46%), Harding Municipal Services such as police, roads, health depart, etc (25% of your tax bill), County services (24% of your tax bill), Harding Open Space aka HOST (about 4% of your taxes) and County Open Space (1%).

Harding School preliminary budget was also introduced and is covered in another report in this issue of Thumbnail.

Thumbnail does not cover the County government (**the Civic Association would warmly welcome a citizen who wanted to take on that task!**) but word is that the County tax increase will be about 3.05% -- from .262 to .270.

This report focuses on only the Harding Municipal Budget and HOST - the two pieces for which the TC has responsibility for and authority over.

By state law, municipal budgets must balance, unlike the federal budget which is consistently in the red since Washington can print money.

A Word on Debt; Harding Township is a AAA rated entity and the policy has been to pay down the debt we do have. From 2009, when debt was \$13.8mm, the outstanding has been cut by over half and is projected to be \$6.64mm at year end. On current course, debt will be eliminated by 2028. However, large needs for affordable housing and/or open space purchases could change that projection dramatically.

A Word on Open Space Tax; Open Space tax is set by the TC at zero to 5 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. In Harding it has varied from 4 cts in 2009 to a low of 3.5 cts in 2013 and 2014. Last year it was raised to 4 cts. A decision has not been made on the level for 2016 and the Open Space Committee did not make a recommendation at its recent presentation. Mayor Platt has expressed his strong preference to raise it to the maximum of 5 cts.

Harding Appropriations (aka spending); the total 2016 spending is pegged at \$8.61mm of which \$5.86mm (70%) is for the several departments while the balance of \$2.75mm is not allocated from departments but includes things like debt service, capital improvements, etc.

Looking at the department budgets; 45.6% is for police, 20.6% is DPW and 10.5% is for Admin & Clerk. The other 22.3% covers the other departments - Finance & Tax, Construction, Health, etc. The department budgets are dominated by spending for people - salaries and payroll taxes (53.9%), pensions (6.8%), health benefit (10.4%), retiree health insurance (6.1%). Only 22.5% of the departmental budgets are spent on things like supplies (significant for DPW) and services.

Drivers of the 1% expenditure increase were specified as:

- (1) Health Insurance rate increase of 4%,
- (2) Health insurance benefit for a new employee,
- (3) Cost of living adjustment of 2% to pay rates,
- (4) Emergency fund increase of \$30K,
- (5) \$50K increase to funding for capital improvements -- \$450K to \$500K.

continue to require 2000-gallon tanks when the state requires 1000-gallon tanks. Mr. Saulnier presented a list of 2016 meeting dates which will be approved at next month's reorganization meeting.

Resolution: PB 01-15, **Applicant 153 Sand Spring Road, LLC**, Block 24, Lot 14, Minor Subdivision. The written resolution which verbally approved at the last meeting was presented. Mr. Saulnier asked whether there was an issue with delinquent taxes, but Mr. Hall said it was not relevant to the approval of the application. The Board then unanimously approved the written resolution.

Mr. Saulnier then thanked the Board for its work in 2015, and looked forward to working with the Board in 2016.
Meeting adjourned.

GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

February & March Calendar of Activities

Sunday, February 21, 6PM - 8PM at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Wildlife Observation Center: Owl Prowl Hike

Want to learn more about New Jersey's owls? Then you don't want to miss this early-evening hike with conservation biologist Dr. Emile DeVito. The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge after dark - a time when most people do not have access - is prime owl-spotting habitat and a perfect spot for Dr. DeVito to demonstrate his owl-calling expertise. With a little luck, you might just hear (or even see!) some of these stealthy night flyers as they move in to investigate the mysterious sounds. Registration required. Register online at www.greatswamp.org, or by calling (973) 538-3500 x 22.

March 1 - March 29, at the Kemmerer Library in Harding Township Discounted Well Testing Program

GSWA's popular well testing program is returning again this March. Unlike city water, residents with private wells are responsible for testing their wells to ensure safety. The test measures several water quality parameters, including total coliform + *E. coli*, nitrates, manganese, iron, arsenic, and lead. The cost for the basic, multi-parameter test is \$125 (this test would normally cost over \$300). Test add-ons are offered for an additional charge. Participants must be available on March 29. Registration required. Please call or email Kelly Martin at (973) 538-3500 x 19, kmartin@greatswamp.org for more information.

Eat at least 5 servings' of vegetables and fruits daily
Build a Great Plate each meal (fill half the plate with vegetables and fruits)
Toss leftovers
Take 15 minute breathing and relaxation breaks throughout the day
Get a full night's sleep
Participate in physical activity: during the winter shoveling snow, sledding and stacking firewood are great ways to be active
Laugh daily; seek out fun and humor
Spend time with people you enjoy

2016 Dog Licenses:

If you reside in Harding Township and own a dog, age 7 months and older, your dog or dogs must be licensed every year by January 31ST. However, Harding Township gives their residents until February 28, 2016, to license their dogs. Beginning on March 1, 2016, a late fee of \$10.00 *per dog* will be charged. By **State law**, in order for a license to be issued, the dog's rabies immunity must be good through October 31, 2016. A copy of the 2016 Dog License Application can be found on the Harding Township website under the Health Department (www.hardingnj.org). Any questions, please call 973/267-8000, extension 1968.

PLANNING BOARD

Planning Board Meeting: December 21, 2015

Roll Call: Messrs. dePoortere and Dietz.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on October 26, 2015 were approved as presented.

Announcements/Reports/Presentations

Mr. Schliefer reported that cell tower activity had begun anew at the Board of Adjustment. One other application was presented, and a site meeting was set and more information was requested. Mr. Clew reported that the Environmental Commission had met regarding 2016 goals. Mr. Platt said that a new lighting ordinance was needed that had better descriptions. The term "foot candles" was not helpful when purchasing a fixture. The township Committee will be submitting something to the Planning Board on this subject. Mr. Jones reported that HOST had met to set goals for 2016, to set parameters on expenses, and to plan a clean-up at Glen Alpin. CPAC wants to remind residents that there must be several days of cold weather before the skating rink can be flooded. Mr. Platt reported that he had just come from a freeholders' meeting; the county has a big budget and it is important that Harding is represented. He also reported that he had attended a Board of Health meeting two weeks ago where the new septic guidelines for pressure tested system technology smaller setbacks were discussed. Harding will

By state law, revenues must cover the expenditures of \$8.612mm. Of course property taxes will generate the largest portion of revenues (64%), followed by surplus - excess of revenues over expenditures from prior years (21%), energy tax receipts - rebate from the State (5%). Municipal revenues, fees and fines (5%), UCC Revenue (3%), FEMA Reimbursement - last payment from storm Sandy (1%), and delinquent tax (1%).

As we said at the top of this report, in order to raise the revenue to cover the budgeted expenditures, the property tax rate is preliminarily pegged to rise about 2% to .273 per \$100 of assessed value.

As of this writing, the budget presentation has not been posted at the township website. But for those interested, we'd expect it to be there soon.

HARDING TOWNSHIP SENIORS

February Events:

February 11, 2016 Thursday 11AM- Activity Center Church of Christ the King
Program: The award winning film *Lincoln*, directed by Steven Spielberg, will be shown. It depicts how Lincoln dealt with the days political challenges, and personal tragedy, during the stressful times of the Civil War. Lunch will be offered.

February 25, 2016-- Thursday 11AM-Activity Center of Christ the King Church

Program: Atlantic Health System will present a program of guidelines for healthier well-being. Lunch will be offered

HARDING LAND TRUST & KEMMERER LIBRARY

Celebrate Harding Photo Contest: Coming soon!

The Harding Land Trust and the Kemmerer Library will sponsor a photo contest for students in grades K through 12. There will be one Grand Prize winner as well as First Place prizes in each of three different age categories. Photos must be taken in Harding. Stay tuned for rules and submission instructions which will be posted soon on the Harding Land Trust and Kemmerer Library websites www.hardinglandtrust.org and www.hardinglibrary.org. The contest will run from March 1 through Earth Day, April 22nd. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded in May.

DID YOU KNOW???

Harding Township Board of Health has adopted a new septic ordinance #02-2015-422

Amending Chapter 422, Article III

Background:

The original septic ordinance in Harding Township was adopted on October 9, 1973, and established its very first Board of Health. This ordinance has had minor revision throughout the years. There was a major revision made in 1991 which came about as a result of a significant change made in 1990 to the New Jersey State Code.

This ordinance has served us well. It has protected the ground water and streams that Harding residents both expect and cherish. The mandate the Board of Health placed on our professionals when we undertook this review was that any revision to the current ordinance could have no deleterious effect whatsoever on our water quality and have no effect on zoning.

The decision to undertake another revision came about after the BOH saw applicant's engineers coming in with plans based on advanced technology that allowed for the design of new septic system embracing the latest innovations. The *drip* and *aerobic treatment systems* are just a few of the many changes that have taken place over the last ten years. This, coupled with another major revision to the State Code in 2012, led the Board of Health to decide that Harding's septic ordinance should be updated and revised.

Purpose:

The purpose of these revisions is to reflect improvements to wastewater treatment technology and the current State regulations. The revisions provide for a more user-friendly code while holding paramount the protection of our groundwater resources. Additionally, the revisions reduce the amount of space required for septic systems and thus reduce the amount of clearing and associated tree clearing necessary for septic system construction.

The revised Health Code reduces the setback distances required for various septic system components. This is the result of improved construction and testing requirements for those components. With the exception of setback distances from property lines, the new setback requirements match those contained in the State Code. For setbacks from property lines, no change was made. This is because the enhanced property line setback distance contained in the current Health Code does not permit someone to install a septic component that could potentially impact the ability of a neighbor to install a septic system. Additionally, Harding's old requirement that a septic bed be 25% larger or 125% of the State requirement was deemed no longer necessary based on decades of experience in other communities.

The revised Health Code also includes provisions for Advanced Wastewater Treatment technologies that have been approved by the NJDEP. these requirements can reduce the required height of mounded systems that may be necessitated by high groundwater conditions or adverse soil conditions. Additionally, the use of such technologies can enhance environmental protection in situations where an existing septic system has failed and the on-site soils are less than ideal for wastewater disposal purpose.

A copy of the revised septic code can be found on the Township web site. Should anyone have a specific question regarding the revised code, they can contact the Harding Township Health Administrator (Irena Bairova) at (973)267-8000 Ext. 1924.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

The Harding Township Health Department has entered into a shared service agreement with the County of Morris. We welcome Jennifer Lawlor, Public Health Nurse, who will be available in the Health Department every second and fourth Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Health Matters - A Simple Prescription for Health:

During the holiday season many of us have a difficult time taking care of ourselves. Now that the holidays are over, here is *a simple prescription*, your permission to take care of yourself. Use these tips throughout the year to make each season a healthier one:

Substitute healthy foods, high in nutrition and low in calories for high-calorie, low nutrition foods