# Harding Township Civic Association Thumbhail accounts of civic affairs

"Keeping Harding Informed Since 1971"

www.HardingCivic.org

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING Events February 2017

#### **GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

#### **February Activities**

Build Your Own Walking Stick, Thursday, February 2, 2017,6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Great Swamp Watershed Association Headquarters - 568 Tempe Wick Road, Morristown. Cost: \$25

Join GSWA and retired Science teacher turned walking-stick-guru for a fun-filled DIY workshop at GSWA's office. Learn how to make your very own walking stick with which to hit the trails with. You'll be able to choose from a variety of rough sticks, including red cedar, maple, beech, and iron wood, and walk away with a finished product and the knowledge of how to create one on your own! All tools and safety equipment will be provided. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call (973) 538-3500.

Full Snow Moon Hike, Saturday, February 11, 2017, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

GSWA's Conservation Management Area, Horizon Trail. Approx. 1 Tiger Lily Lane, Harding. February's full moon is known as the "Full Snow Moon", due to February's tendency to have the heaviest snowfall. Native American tribes in the area also called this moon the "Hunger Moon" because of difficulty to find food during this time of year. Join GSWA as we hike the moonlit trails of our Conservation Management Area (CMA), and listen for nighttime creatures. The open canopy cover and bright moonlight provide the perfect backdrop to hear and spot owls, as they become more active for the mating season. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call (973) 538-3500.

"Guided Dog Walk", Saturday, February 25, 2017, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Passaic River Park, 161 Springfield Avenue, Berkeley Heights

Come explore the Passaic River Park with your furry friend! We'll see what we can sniff out in the woods. Leash required, and you will be asked to sign a waiver prior to participation. Walk will be over uneven and sometimes slippery terrain. Please dress according to the weather and bring your own waste bags. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call (973) 538-3500.

#### HARDING TOWNSHIP RECREATION ASSOCIATION

#### Spring 2017 T-ball & Lacrosse

**T-ball:** registration now open! All Harding residents in grades K through 2 are eligible. The season will run from <u>April 28 through the first week of June 9, 2017</u>. For more information: http://htra.info/t-ball/.

Lacrosse:registration is now open! For more information about the teams and clinics, please visit <a href="http://htra.info/lacrosse/">http://htra.info/lacrosse/</a>. Registration closes February 1st, 2017. Find more info on all HTRA sports at <a href="https://www.HTRA.info">www.HTRA.info</a>

# Coming Soon: Summer Camp Registration

#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### **Sunday Speaker Series**

February's Sunday Speaker Series is honored to present Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia, Director of Church Relations at Princeton Theological Seminary, who will lead a thoughtful exploration of the way that people of faith struggle to live in a world that is often divisive and constantly full of challenges: racism, war, prejudice, and violence. Her topic, "Faith in a Divided World," will consider how faith can inform ways that we engage in the vital work of transforming the world around us. On February 26 at 11:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall library for one hour. Please join us for an insightful discussion on a timely topic.

#### HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH

#### Stress Less for a Healthy Heart

Your body can react to stress in different ways. In minimal doses, stress boosts your body's adrenaline. Too much and you may be putting your heart at risk.

When you are continually exposed to stress hormones, your body builds up a resistance and can override your natural flight-or-fight response. Stressed, your body may also begin to suppress your immune system.

Although the link between stress and heart disease is widely suspected, it regularly leads people to proven risk factors of heart disease: high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and smoking.

Here are ways to de-stress your life - and boost heart health at the same time.

Relax your heart and mind: Yoga, meditation, focused breathing all can slow your heart, clear your mind and defuse tension.

Work out stress: Regular exercise can strengthen your heart and lower blood pressure.

Establish healthy habits: Drinking less alcohol and caffeine, eating more fruits and vegetables, drinking more water help keep your heart healthy.

Do what you enjoy: Many of us know what works for us. Maybe it's listening to music or spending time in nature, or reading a good book. Laughter is widely recommended as it improves both mood and heart health.

For more information on stress management, visit the American Heart Association at: <u>To Stress or not to Stress?</u> You decide.

#### **ENVIROMENTAL COMMISSION**

Meeting Highlights: January 11, 2017

Environmental Commission is sponsoring a road side cleanup on Saturday, April 22, 2017, from 9AM to Noon starting from Town Hall. We urge our residents to participate to keep Harding beautiful, pristine and healthy.

The Environmental Commission welcomed two new members Roberta Shields and Deborah Apruzzese. Richard Clew was named Chairman and Hugh Symonds was elected Vice Chairman. George Burns was approved as the Commission's secretary.

The motion to approve the times of meeting designated as the first Wednesday of the month was passed.

Alf Newlin discussed living landscapes and beneficial planting for the sustenance of wild life and how to get individual residents to plant accordingly. He advised the commission members that Dr. Kelly, an expert in this field, had agreed to present to members of the town. Details and dates will be published soon.

#### HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

ANNOUNCEMENT: Harding Township School Kindergarten Registration 2017-2018

Kindergarten Registration for the 2017-2018 school year is scheduled from 9:00 am to noon at the Harding Township Middle School Main Office, 34 Lee's Hill Road in New Vernon on the following dates: Tuesday, February 7, Wednesday, February 8 and Thursday, February 9, 2017.

Entering Kindergarten students must have attained the age of **five years** on or before October 1, 2017. An orientation program for you and your child will be offered on Wednesday, April 19, 2017. 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 questions, please contact Mrs. Howard at 973-267-6398, ext. 108. Please bring the following documents to registration: original birth certificate, list of immunizations, NJ Driver's License or County or NJ State Photo ID and 2 proofs of residency.

#### HARDING SENIORS

#### February 2017 Events

February 9<sup>th</sup> at 11 A M Christ the King Parish Hall Topic: Afghanistan it's Geographic & Tribal Profile February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11 A M Christ the King Parish Hall

Program: Drew University Student will speak of her experiences and education here and in Afghanistan

#### **PLANNING BOARD**

Planning Board Meeting Highlights: December 19, 2016

Roll Call: Messrs. dePoortere and Flynn were absent.

<u>Minutes</u>: The Board concluded that the minutes of the meeting on November 28, 2016 included too much detail on Mr. Schommer's testimony regarding PB# 05-16 and were tabled until the next meeting pending revision.

#### Administrative Reports

- Mr. Saulnier reminded the Board that the next meeting would be the 2017 reorganization meeting.
- Ms. Olcott reported that the Advisory Review Committee had not met but will meet in January to discuss several issues (night sky, siting agricultural barns, and minor structures and setbacks).

- Mr. Clew reported that the Water and Environmental Committee had not met, and would like to have input on the night sky language.
- Mr. Edgar reported the Development Review Committee met with a developer regarding the Hurstmont Estate, and will meet again.
- Mr. Edgar reported that the Board of Adjustment had several items on its docket including an appeal by the zoning officer of a generator and the cell tower. There was also a sendoff for former Board member Jack Olcott.
- Mr. Clew reported that the Environmental Commission was working with the Harding Land Trust on flora surveys on preserved land.
- Mr. Modi reported that revisions to the tree ordinances that were before the Township Committee were passed.

Resolution: Application PB# 05-16, Applicants Michael and Helen Lucciola/Jodi Lane, LLC, 30 Lees Hill Road, Block 49, Lot 8. Minor Subdivision. Resolution was approved after some changes to language for shoulders along Crane Road. "Enhanced shoulders" was changes to "reinforced," and that these shoulders should extend to end of Crane Road.

Old Business: Application PB# 04-16, Applicants Allen and Benjamin Franklin, 61 Village Road, Block 16, Lots L13. Minor Subdivision. Application has been tabled pending resolution of an issue with the county.

<u>Completeness</u>: Application PB# 06-16, **Applicant New Vernon Heritage Property Owners' Association**, Morgan Drive/Lee's Hill Road, Block 49, Lot 52. Amended Major Subdivision (PB# 10-85F). Applicant seeks to amend plans for subdivision to allow signs indicating "video surveillance" and "no loitering or trespassing." Also, a variance would be required for the signs. Proposal has been approved by property owners' association and all taxes are up to date. Board approved completeness subject to payment of application fee, waiver by Board of Health, and approval by the county. Will be discussed at next meeting. Meeting adjourned.

#### **KEMMERER LIBRARY:**

Programs: February 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 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.

**Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. Lunch Bunch.** Toddler Time participants and young children are invited to bring their brown bag lunch and enjoy an hour of socialization with Mrs. Marchev and Miss Kryssi. Registration requested, please.

Wednesday, February 1, 3:30-5:00pm. Science Fair Help. Need help to get ready for the Science Fair? Dr. Maxwell will be on-hand to give help and advice in planning your presentation. Markers, highlighters and glue sticks available!

Saturday, February 4, 4:00 p.m. New Jersey Symphony Orchestra presents: Peter and the Wolf. Children and their families are invited to a special performance of Prokofiev's beloved masterpiece featuring hands' on activities and storytelling performed by members of NJSO. Registration required, please.

Thursday, February 16, 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm. Junior Garden Club: STARTING PLANTS Children Grades 1-6. Each participant will learn how to start a plant from seed, seedlings, and cuttings. Sponsored by the New Vernon Garden Club. "Enhancing the beauty of our town through nature." Registration requested, please.

Starting February 21, 3:45-4:45 p.m.: LEGO© Robotics After-School Workshops for Children in Grades 3-5: Bricks4Kids will lead 6 sessions of fun, interactive learning. Participants will learn principles of simple machines, beginning coding, and collaborative problem solving. Space is limited to 12 participants so registration is required. A modest fee of \$50 per child for 6 sessions.

## **Adult Programs:**

5 Sundays at 4:00 p.m. Starting Sunday, January 29, February 12 and 26, March 12 and 26. The Gift of Failure Parenting Book Club. Join educators, Kathleen McClay and Barbara Thomas for 5 workshops reading Jessica Lahey's groundbreaking book, The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed. Ms. Lahey explains that even though many modern parents see themselves as being highly responsive to the needs of their children, they aren't giving them the chance to experience failure or the opportunity to solve their own problems. Registration requested, please.

Thursday, February 2, 7:30 p.m.: Native Wildflower Meadows: Let's Get Real with Landscape Expert, Larry Weaner. Demand for native meadows, particularly as alternatives to lawns, is increasing. Yet few types of landscape plantings are more misunderstood than native meadows. Drawing on many years of experience, Mr. Weaner will discuss methods and strategies to make YOUR meadow a long-term success. Registration required, please.

Tuesday, February 21, 1:30 p.m.: Daytime Book Group. Join our new, lively book group to discuss our February pick: The Perfect Horse: The Daring U.S. Mission to Rescue the Priceless Stallions Kidnapped by the Nazis by Elizabeth Letts. In the chaotic last days of the war, a small troop of battle-weary American soldiers finds a secret farm behind enemy lines. Hitler has stockpiled the world's finest purebreds in order to breed the perfect military machine—an equine master race. But with the starving Russian army closing in, the animals are in imminent danger of being slaughtered for food. No registration required. All are welcome.

Wednesdays February 1 and 8, 4:30-5:30 p.m.: iPhone/iPad Workshops with Caitlin Trought. Are you stumped by new features on your iPhone or iPad? Wondering what apps to get? Not sure how to manage your photos? These workshops are for you. With many years of experience in all things "i" Caitlin offers a wealth of information! Registration required, please.

Class in formation: Painting with Acrylics. Thursdays, starting February 16, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon. Barbara Gerson of Art4All is looking forward to leading another round of painting classes at the Library. We need at least 8 participants to start. \$75 for 6 sessions. The Library will supply paints. Participants are asked to bring brushes and canvases. Please register at <a href="https://www.hardinglibrary.org">www.hardinglibrary.org</a>.

Wednesday, February 22, 7:30-9:00 p.m.: Fresh Start Financial Tune-Up. Janney Montgomery Scott's Ash Rajan, a twenty eight year Wall Street specialist will host a workshop covering some of the biggest worry-factors for Americans 45 and over: 1. Whether they are saving enough for retirement? 2. Will they

outlive their savings? 3. Whether their social security, pensions, IRAs and 401ks suffice for their retirement needs. Registration required. Refreshments will be served.

Thursday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.: Assessing Forest Health in New Jersey. Join Dr. Jay Kelly, associate professor of biology at Raritan Community College, to learn about today's state of New Jersey's forest ecology, the benefits of native planting, and the impact from deer and invasive plant species. Sponsored by the Harding Environmental Commission, Dr. Kelly's fascinating presentation is oriented to home owners as well as citizens involved with land use policy. Registration requested. Refreshments will be served.

#### **Weekly Activities**

Gentle Yoga, Mondays 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> 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 <u>ellentwill@msn.com</u> 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 <a href="https://www.hardinglibrary.org">www.hardinglibrary.org</a>, 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.

# NJ Makerspace Day, Saturday, March 2017 Exhibitors Wanted

Are you an artist, inventor, LEGO maven, crafter or robotics fan? The Library is looking for residents who would be interested in sharing their expertise at NJ Makerspace Day 2017. For more information, please visit our website at www.hardinglibrary.org.

#### **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

Township Committee Meeting Highlights: January 9, 2017 All Committee persons were in attendance.

On January 9, 2017, the Harding Township Committee (TC) held its first meeting with new chairperson (aka mayor), Chris Yates. Nic Platt remains on the committee after his re-election in November. Deputy Mayor is Ms. DiTosto.

There were no new ordinances introduced.

The main business was the awarding of contracts to various professionals - lawyers, insurance brokers, engineers, planners, etc. Billing under all contracts remained the same except for three: engineer, Gary Hall, increased \$5/hour to \$195; tax appeal attorney, Fred Semrau, increased \$3/hour to \$143; auditor, Suplee Clooney, increase 2% to \$27,450.

Walking Path To Be Created. The TC formally accepted a grant that will partially fund a walking path in the Bayne Park/Town Hall area. The exact route of the nearly one mile long, gravel covered path is still being determined. The grant was for \$42,500 while the total cost of the project is estimated at about \$50,000.

Erratum: Last month we wrote that a tree ordinance was defeated by a vote of 3 to 2. In fact the ordinance passed by 3 to 2, with a modification proposed by a citizen.

Township Taxes to Rise Approximately 1.8%. The TC had a work meeting before regular meeting. The preliminary budget, which will be presented at the February regular meeting, was discussed. As it currently stands, the budget calls for a 1.8% tax increase and a sharp increase in capital spending driven by more work on Kirby Hall (front porch, adding shutters), improvements to DPW building, and replacing equipment at our low income housing project, etc.

Remember this is just the municipal budget and related tax impact. Your municipal taxes account for about a quarter of your property tax bill. Three other uses (School, County and Open Space) make up the rest. Open Space tax has not been determined; thought the Open Space Committee has recommended an increase to the maximum of 5 cents from current 4 cents. And we have no word yet on what the Harding School Board or Morris County Freeholders are proposing.

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Board of Education Meeting Highlights: 01-09-2017

Board Re-Organization. The reorganization meeting of the Harding Township

Board of Education saw the taking of the oath of office by Board members Davor Gjivoje and Richard Bruno, both of whom had been elected in November. Gjivoje is beginning his second elected term on the Board, and Bruno is beginning his first. By unanimous vote of the five member Board, Davor Gjivoje and John Flynn were re-elected as Board President and Board Vice President, respectively. This will be the third year as President for Gjivoje and the fourth year as Vice President for Flynn.

President Gjivoje proposed, and the Board unanimously voted for the following Board Committee rosters:

Curriculum and Instruction
Personnel and Management
Negotiations
Flynn (Chair), Bruno
Macaulay (Chair), Flynn
Macaulay (Chair), Flynn
Facilities and Finance
Technology
Policy
Singh (Chair), Bruno
Gjivoje (Chair), Macaulay
Buildings and Grounds
Gjivoje (Chair), Bruno

Culture and Climate Macaulay

Representative, Madison BoE Singh (Gjivoje alternative)

The Board decided that its regular public meetings will begin at 7pm local time for 2017. Meeting dates and agendas are posted on the Harding school website.

**Superintendent Report.** Superintendent Spelker reported that he continued with his interactions with the Madison school administration with the objective to have good coordination for Harding students who attend Madison High School. Most recently he met on January 4<sup>th</sup> with the interim Madison Superintendent. Under discussion was continued articulation between Harding and Madison principals, and teacher professional development with the Madison Academy.

Mr. Spelker also reported that the Eagle Scout project by former Harding student Andrew Novotny is completed. This project is an outdoor environmental classroom that includes a self-sustaining garden.

Superintendent Spelker announced that the annual Harding science fair would be held on 7 February.

**Facilities and Finance.** On the basis of advice from the District's Consultant-Director of Special Services (Fraida Yavelberg), Superintendent Spelker approved and recommended that the Board approve changes proposed for four special education student arrangements. Three of these were for current students and one is for a new student in the district. The Board approved unanimously.

**Executive Session.** The Board entered into executive session to discuss (a) Madison High School and (b) negotiations with the Harding Township Education Association. When the Board re-convened in public session, the President reported that the Board discussed Madison personnel updates and Harding's role in the process. The Harding Board of Education teacher's contract negotiation team (Macaulay and Flynn) gave an update to the Board concerning the meeting with Harding Township Education Association (HTEA) the previous week, as well as contract negotiation plans for the coming weeks. No actions were taken.

(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.)

#### HARDING TOWNSHIP GREEN VILLAGE BRIDLE PATH ASSOCIATION

The HT/GV BPA has kicked off the year with our first Quarterly meeting, which was held on January 10, 2017. We have an exciting year ahead with equine educational and riding clinics, trail maintenance, as well as a picnic for members and donors planned, and more! Please watch for the scheduled dates for these events on our web site, as well as in the Thumbnail.

The Community Donation Drive is underway, so if you haven't done so, please donate as soon as possible; we appreciate your contributions in advance because without donations it is not possible to maintain the Association. Remember, the HT/GV BPA is a 501 (c)(3) organization so your donations are tax deductible. We are also kicking off the 2017 HT/GV BPA Membership drive shortly. If you are a member or rider, please look for the renewal letter in your mail boxes, and ensure that you renew or join for 2017. 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.

As always, please remember no motor vehicles of any type are permitted on the HT/GV Bridle Path Trails! Please visit our web site at www.bridlepath.org for additional information

#### HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:

#### Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for March 2017 Thumbnail please email by Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. **MS Word is** the preferred format, thank you!

# **Upcoming Thumbnail Schedule:**

April Thumbnail: deadline March 16<sup>th</sup> May Thumbnail: deadline April 14<sup>th</sup>

Current and past issues of the Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are available on our Website: <a href="www.HardingCivic.org">www.HardingCivic.org</a>. Send questions or comments about *Thumbnail* to editor to: <a href="https://example.com">HTCA@mail.com</a> or PO Box 72 New Vernon, NJ 07976

## HARDING TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

# 2017 Recycling Schedule

JAN	14 <sup>TH</sup> , 28 <sup>TH</sup>	FEB	11 <sup>™</sup> , 25 <sup>™</sup>	MAR	11 <sup>™</sup> , 25 <sup>™</sup>
APR	8 <sup>TH</sup> , 22 <sup>ND</sup>	MAY	6 <sup>TH</sup> , 20 <sup>TH</sup>	JUNE	3 <sup>RD</sup> , 17 <sup>TH</sup>
JULY	1 <sup>ST</sup> , 15 <sup>TH</sup> , 29 <sup>TH</sup>	AUG	12 <sup>TH</sup> , 26 <sup>TH</sup>	SEPT	9 <sup>TH</sup> , 23 <sup>RD</sup>
OCT	<b>7</b> <sup>TH</sup> , 21 <sup>ST</sup>	NOV	4 <sup>TH</sup> , 18 <sup>TH</sup>	DEC	$2^{ND}$ , $16^{TH}$ , $30^{T}$

Hours of Operation:

Wednesdays: 7 am. - Noon (7- 9am self service)
Every other Saturday: 9 am - noon (see schedule dates)

<u>Commingled Recyclables</u>: 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.

<u>Commingled Mixed Fiber:</u> 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.

<u>Other Accepted Items</u>: 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).

<u>E-Waste items accepted</u>: Computers, monitors, laptops and televisions <u>cannot</u> 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.

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