

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

Harding Township Civic Association
THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS
 “Keeping Harding Informed Since 1971”

www.HardingCivic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS: January 2016

The **Directory of Community Services** is published as a public service by Harding Township Civic Association and mailed mid-February to every house-hold in Harding Township. We kindly ask each organization to email any changes or updates to HTCA@mail.com by January 15, 2016, please include the name of your organization in the subject line (MS Word document preferred).

RAPTORS TRUST:

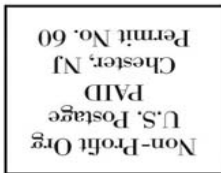
On Tuesday, Dec 8th, The Raptor Trust received a call about a Bald Eagle, apparently stuck in a tree in Pittstown, NJ. The bird was injured and remained in the tree, unwilling or unable to move for three days before The Avian Wildlife Center of Wantage, NJ was able to rescue and transport the bird to The Raptors Trust in Long Hill Township for medical attention.

The NJ.COM piece below tells the story

"Lily" the eagle, named by Anna Heath, a four year old from the neighborhood where he was found, is currently in critical condition here at The Raptor Trust. ("Lily" turned out to be a male!) His initial surgery to stabilize and pin the leg went well, but we discovered another lead pellet in his side which we believe may have ruptured an air sac inside his chest. He has also tested positive for lead poisoning. He has a long way to go to recover from several extensive injuries. The lead pellets retrieved from his body have been sent to the US Fish and Wildlife Service firearms experts for ballistic analysis to determine the caliber of the weapon used to shoot him. That agency, along with the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, are conducting a state and federal criminal investigation. With the Humane Society of the United States, a \$7500 reward is being offered for

DATED MATERIAL

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



any information leading to a conviction. Anyone with information regarding this shooting is encouraged to contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement in Elizabeth, New Jersey at (908) 787-1321, or 1- 844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477).

Raptors Trust: 1390 Whitebridge Road, Millington, New Jersey

HARDING TREES PROJECT

The Harding Trees Project is a new initiative with the objective of bringing about a substantial increase in the number of trees in the township. The mission of the project is to protect and foster the rural image of Harding Township through an abundance of trees.

The project is to consist of two phases and is to be financed through donations.

Phase I will be to **replace trees** lost due to adverse weather conditions, such as hurricanes, or through infestations by insects or fungi. In this context, special attention will have to be placed on our efforts to control the anticipated problem of the Emerald Ash Bore (EAB), a separate initiative.

Phase II will be to increase the number of trees in the township.

The number of trees lost is estimated at 700, which will have to be confirmed by an audit. They will have to be replaced with mature trees, over a period of 5 years, at a cost of \$100 per tree, or \$70,000. An attempt will be made, with a local nursery, to conclude a long term supply contract covering the project.

The number of trees needed for Phase II (increasing the number of trees in the township), has yet to be determined. It will obviously be influenced by the success of the replacement part of the project. An inexpensive method to deal with the issue might be a collaboration with an organization such as *ARBOR DAY* of Lincoln, NE. *ARBOR DAY* is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering the growth of trees, making them available and providing information about planting them and caring for them. They ship bare root plants when they are dormant in the spring and fall seasons. The plants are initially planted in a protected area and given about two years to establish themselves before they are transplanted to their final location.

- I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose fitting clothing, I wouldn't need the freakin' class!
- Don't argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference.
- Wouldn't you know it! Brain cells come and brain cells go, but FAT cells live forever

TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

Hours of Operation:

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

Every other Saturday: 9 am - noon

January Recycling Dates: 2ND, 16TH and 30TH

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

the craft of telling a story. No experience necessary - just bring pad and paper. Registration requested, please.

Downton Abbey High Tea and Presentation, Sunday, January 10, 3:30-5 p.m. As the new season of Downton Abbey opens, you might like to know a little more about the culture and forces that shaped English society. Historian Dr. George Robb examines the differences between social classes in early 20th century Britain and casts his critical eye upon the show's portrayal. Authentic high tea, catered by Karen Gobo of the Village Bistro, will help create the proper atmosphere for the program. \$15 per person. Registration requested, please.

Evening at the Library: Life in the Arctic with Jane Kendall and David Dietz, Thursday, January 14, 7:30 p.m. Local photographers and world travelers, Jane Kendall and David Dietz, will share spectacular photos and stories from their many journeys north of the Arctic Circle. Refreshments will be served. Registration requested, please.

Evening Book Group, Wednesday, January 27, 7:30 p.m.: Join us monthly for refreshments and lively discussions. This month's title is Russian Tattoo by Elena Gorokhova. This beautifully written memoir describes Ms. Gorokhova's experiences as a young Russian immigrant trying to make sense of the American lifestyle during the 1980's. No registration required.

Weekly Activities

Monday Morning Yoga, Mondays 10:30 a.m.-12 noon. 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.

SOME QUITE ASTUTE OBSERVATIONS

- I live in my own little world, but it's OK. Everyone knows me here
- I don't do drugs. I find I get the same effect just by standing up really fast.
- I don't like political jokes. I've seen too many get elected.
- The most precious thing we have is life, yet it has absolutely no trade-in value.
- No one ever says, "It's only a game!" when their team's winning.

The project is organized as a successor of existing organizations (the Shade Tree Commission and Harding Friends of Trees) and will draw on their experiences. Harding Friends of Trees will assume the leadership of the project and continue to focus on fund raising. It is a 501 (c) (3) organization, and contributions to it qualify as tax deductible donations, Donors above a level yet to be determined, will be given the option to have their names put on Honorary Plaques displayed in City Hall.

Karl H, Meister, (with prior service in the leadership of the Wildlife Management Committee and the Environmental Commission) has been named President of Harding Friends of Trees, succeeding Justine Kovacs, who moved away.

The project obviously is in its start-up phase and much work needs to be done to get it rolling. At this moment a committee is being established. It will have its first meeting in the first half of January, 2016. Residents interested in joining the project, may wish to call Karl Meister at (973) 605 8274, or e-mail him at khmeister3@gmail.com .

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Comments made by Mayor Nicolas Platt on the eve of Deputy Mayor Ward's last Township Committee Meeting:

"This evening we are going to celebrate the Deputy Mayor Ward's last Township Committee Meeting. If you add them all up, since his election in 2006, Ned has attended 108 Township Committee Meetings and if you figure with heavy workloads of the past these meetings used to go until 11:00pm he spent over 500 hours sitting up on the dais and another 500 hours attending the Executive Meetings and countless hours sitting on his various Board assignments. That is equivalent to Mr. Ward spending 83 days sitting up in the dais.

One cannot imagine what an exciting life Ned has led. You need to look no further than his incredible feats as a Navy fighter pilot. Sometimes, the plane did not work as advertised and in one instance he had to eject from an extremely high altitude and in the other he "dead stuck" to a safe landing where the chances of survival was less than 5%. Ned could do it all.

When I first sat up here with Ned it took me about 2 months to understand what fundamentally mattered to him, then it took we another 2 months to realize either we agreed or we did not agree. There was no in between or meeting each other half way. And equally frustrating to me was there was no politicking or negotiating that would get Ned to vote any other way than he was going to vote in the first place. He would instantly make up his mind and that was that. When we would meet for breakfast and I tried to reason with him he would always say “don’t bother” and look down and say your eggs are getting cold. And that was that. We just sat and enjoyed each other’s company. Ned was not a politician. He never was and never wanted to be and that is why we are celebrating him tonight.

Ned was instrumental in his help on the Public Safety Committee to help bring about the wonderful community centric police department we now have under the leadership of Chief Giansanti. Ned also provided remarkable insight into how to apply “best practices” to the Construction and Building Department. He was always available and he grasps the issue immediately. But one thing that was certain, Ned never wavered regardless of the possible ramifications.

But Ned is wired with a compass where the magnetic North has always been what was in the best interest of the resident. It was his extraordinary history of growing up in Harding and his core values that has led the continued preservation of this special community. Ned, tonight we honor you as you have honored all of us. Thank you. Well Ned, we are all here tonight to say you are what makes Harding Township special.”

Township Committee Meeting - December 14, 2015

All members in attendance

JCP&L representative make a short presentation to assure the township that JCP&L is ready to restore power as quickly as possible when the next storm hits.

Harding Tree Project: Presentation regarding a new effort whose mission is to foster Harding’s rural image through an abundance of trees. As described by Karl Meister the first phase of the project is to replace the

STEM Sundays are back! Sunday, January 10, 3-4 p.m. Join us for hands-on fun as we make snow (looks like we’ll have to this winter!), build structures with toothpicks and marshmallows, create 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: First meeting Wednesday, January 13, 3:30-4:30 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.

Adult Programs:

Morning Book Group, Tuesday, January 5, 11:00 a.m. The newest addition to our regular programs took off with great enthusiasm in October 2015. This month’s selection is *Pretty Girls* by Karin Slaughter. The novel is a sophisticated and chilling psychological thriller of dangerous secrets, cold vengeance, and unexpected absolution, in which two estranged sisters must come together to find truth about two harrowing tragedies, twenty years apart, that devastate their lives.

Downsizing Workshop with Lisa Lewis, Tuesday, January 12, 11:00 a.m.-12 noon. Overwhelmed by your stuff? Want to sell your house, but it’s too cluttered to stage properly? Maybe it’s time to de-clutter, organize and downsize! Professional downsizer, Lisa Lewis, will offer tips and ideas. Registration requested, please.

Stress Reduction Techniques with Mary Day Bodenstein, Tuesday, January 19, 11:00 a.m.-12 noon. With numerous years of experience in coaching stress reduction, Mary Day can help with proven techniques to reduce stress and anxiety. Registration requested, please.

Spiritual Healing with Pam Meredith Psychic Medium, Tuesday, January 26, 11:00 a.m.-12 noon. One of New Jersey’s most respected psychic mediums and healers, Pam Meredith, will discuss her craft and paths to spiritual healing. Registration requested, please.

Memoir Writing/Story Telling with Mary Kenny and Markie Burke, Wednesdays, January 13, 20, 27, 1-3 p.m. Learn from two masters of

HARDING SENIORS

January 14, 2016 Christ the King-Activity Center--11 A.M.

Program: New Vernon First Aide Squad, Fire Department, and Harding Township Police Department members will discuss how all three work together for the benefit of Harding Township Citizens safety and wellbeing.

January 28, 2016--Christ the King Activity Center--11 A.M.

Program: Shop Rite Nutritionist will present healthy winter cooking ideas. Samples of such will be prepared and offered.

Harding Seniors meet the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

Mary Bentzlin-Program Chair--973-971-9926

KEMMERER LIBRARY:

Programs: January 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.

South Street Dance Party: Friday, January 22, 4-5 p.m. We're trying out a new program for 6 to 8 year olds! Join the performers from South Street Dance School of Performing Arts and spend a fun hour learning all the cool moves. Please register at www.hardinglibrary.org.

5th Grade Service Program to start. 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 for the first meeting on **Monday, January 25, 3:45-4:30 p.m.** Please register at www.hardinglibrary.org.

approximately 700 trees lost to storms and blight. The second phase is to increase the number of trees. The program is in its planning stages.

Cell Tower for New Vernon Center: Because the cellular telephone equipment currently housed in the NVVFD attic is obsolete, the cellular carriers need a new location for a bigger antenna. The TC authorized the lease of a plot in the DPW site between the two recycling sheds. Authorization was given for a 140ft tower. The land lease will require a minimum payment to HT of \$30K annually with a 4% annual escalation. In addition, bidders will pay a one-time \$25K fee and additional 30% for each additional carrier that chooses to use the tower.

The project now goes to the Board of Adjustment for its decision. As well it needs approval from NJ State Historical authorities as the area is a listed historical site. However, unless an alternative site can be found, the precedent is that the tower will be built as the carriers are under FCC directive to build out the system to provide service including vital 911 service.

Trash Day Cost Pegged at \$90K. TC member Yates mentioned that the 2015 trash pickup cost \$90K -- \$65K for labor and \$25K for tipping fees (ie dumping of the trash at a site).

This meeting marked the last day of Ned Ward's service to the Committee and Harding Township. Mayor Platt delivered comments that are included in this Thumbnail issue and Mr. Ward made a short speech as well highlighting progress that has been made in the Police Department, Construction Department and Department of Public Works.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Harding Township Historical Society Annual Meeting

Please save the date! The Harding Township Historical Society Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, January 14 at 7:30 at Christ the King. After a short business meeting, James Judge, History Professor at Rowan College at Burlington County, will discuss Sally Hemmings, known as the mistress of Thomas Jefferson: her life, her relationship with Jefferson, and the children that she had with him. Professor Judge will address Jefferson's relationship with Sally and how it would have fit into the

attitudes, practices and history of the time period. We will also learn of the living descendants of their children together today. Guests are most welcome. Historical Society members attend free. We ask a donation of \$5 from non-members. Refreshments will be served.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Highlights: Board of Education Meeting 12-07-2015

This was a short meeting of the School Board, with just a few updates on school matters.

Superintendent Matt Spelker announced that the results of the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers* (PARCC) test have been received by the school district. The results will be reported to the faculty on December 14th and to parents on December 15th, with information on how to read and interpret the results. The results will be reported to the community at the Board of Education meeting on December 21st.

The business administrator Robert Brown reported that the official 2015 school enrollment, as reported to the State, is 292 pupils in grades K-8 and 112 pupils in Madison high school. The 2014 enrollment was 290 in K-8 and 119 in Madison.

The School Board approved another out-of-Harding tuition-paying student. The current tuition rate for non-resident K-8 students is \$8,500 for a full year (if a sibling is also enrolled, the tuition rate is \$7,500/year; the rate for a child of a non-resident employee is \$5,100/year). This 2015 school year Harding has five non-resident, tuition paying students in grades K-8 for total revenue of \$38,100. In addition, there are currently 19 resident students enrolled in the Harding pre-school program, at a rate of \$3,750/year.

Board President Davor Gjivoje announced that the academic presentations at the January and February Board meetings would be on GoogleDocs and on Next Generation Science Standards, respectively.

(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.)

HARDING TOWNSHIP NEEDS YOU! CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Our town runs on volunteers. Most citizens know that our Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Kemmerer Library, and many other organizations are staffed and run by dedicated volunteers. But you should also know that there are several governmental Board Commissions and Committees which are vital to the functioning of Harding and which require volunteers to staff them. These positions are filled by appointments from the Township Committee, which is currently in the process of finding and vetting candidates for seating in January.

The entities to which the Township Committee appoints citizens are: Open Space Trust Committee, Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, Environmental Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Board of Health, Citizen's Parks Advisory Committee, Wildlife Management Committee and Shade Tree Advisory Committee. The mission of each of these can be found in the Harding Township Civic Associations Directory of Community Services at www.hardingcivic.org.

If you are interested in serving, submit a resume or a background description via email to Paige Yutko at pyutko@hardingnj.org.

HARDING TOWNSHIP PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

SAVE THE DATE: An Evening of Comedy!

Mark your calendar for a fun-filled Evening of Comedy & Silent Auction on Friday, February 26 at The Bernards Inn. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 for air conditioning in the gym at Harding Township School. Come out and join in the fun and help raise money for Harding Township School. For donations and more information, contact: htspto@hardingtwp.org

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The HTHS Annual Meeting will be in **January 14, 2016**. It will feature Professor James Judge, History Professor at Rowan College at Burlington County. He will talk about Sally Hemmings, known as the mistress of Thomas Jefferson. He will discuss Hemmings' life, her relationship with Jefferson, and the children that she had with him, including how that relationship would have fit into the attitudes, practices and history of the time period.