

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since 1971”

www.HardingCivic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING Events March 2017

"A Farewell Message from Township Administrator Gail McKane"

As you may have heard, I will be retiring as Township Administrator/Clerk at the end of March. I'd like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the last 11 years. As happy as I am to be retiring, it is definitely with mixed emotions that I am leaving Harding Township. I have really enjoyed working with such a dedicated team (staff, elected officials, volunteers and residents) and am so proud of what we've accomplished over the years. I truly appreciate the support provided me during my tenure.

While I look forward to enjoying my retirement, it is with a heavy heart that I bid all of you farewell. I will not forget the friends I have made and the fine people I have met while working in Harding. I will surely miss these days as they have been a beautiful part of my journey. *Gail McKane*

GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

March 2017 Calendar Events

Discount Well Water Testing: Wednesday March 1 to Wednesday March 22, 2017. Kemmerer Library Harding Township, 19 Blue Mill Road, New Vernon, Throughout the month of March, Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA), in partnership with Kemmerer Library Harding Township (KLHT), will offer discount well-water testing for all who rely on wells as their household water supply. Testing kits will be available for pick-up at the KLHT (located at 19 Blue Mill Rd., New Vernon) between March 1 and March 22. The homeowner must

complete all tests on the morning of March 22, and all testing kits must be returned to the Library between 8:00 a.m. and noon the same day. (Certain tests are time sensitive, so please return kits as directed.)

The basic testing package, which includes measures of coliform bacteria, nitrates, manganese, iron, arsenic, and lead, will cost \$125. (The standard cost for this package is over \$300.) Additional tests may be purchased for an additional charge. Lead testing for individuals on public water is also available. For details, please contact Kelly Martin at (973) 538-3500. A deposit of \$10 will be required when picking up your test kit. Please note that this test cannot be used to satisfy the requirements of a real estate transaction.

Breakfast Briefing: How to Build Your Own Rain Garden: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Great Swamp Watershed Association Headquarters - 568 Tempe Wick Road, Morristown

In this in-depth how-to breakfast briefing, GSWA Director of Education and Outreach, Hazel England, will discuss the benefits of managing stormwater by installing a rain garden in your home. Rain Gardens are shallow depressions, planted with shrubs and perennials that absorb storm water runoff from roofs, driveways, and other impervious surfaces, helping to recharge groundwater, slow flooding, and reduce non-point source pollution in our waterways. Hazel will discuss everything from how to pick the right location for your rain garden, to how to create it, and what plants to include. You'll leave armed with the knowledge needed to create your own rain garden this spring. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call (973) 538-3500.

Frog Watch Training Workshop: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Great Swamp Helen Fenske Visitors Center - 32 Pleasant Plains Road, New Vernon

Do you know your spring peepers from your wood frogs? What does a leopard frog sound like and can they be found in your neighborhood? Join GSWA and Tedor Whitman of Cora Hartshorn Arboretum for this hands-on training session to become an official FrogWatch volunteer. FrogWatch is a citizen science program that uses volunteers' observations to create a database of frog and toad sightings, helping to establish long-term and large-scale data on amphibian populations. During the training, you'll learn how to recognize different species of frogs and toads from their appearance and calls, and how to record your observations into the database. We will work with you to select places around the region to monitor and you will be frog counting in no time! Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call (973) 538-3500.

Stream Assessment Training: Saturday, March 18, 2017 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Long Hill Library - 917 Valley Road, Gillette

If you are interested in becoming a stream monitoring volunteer or just learning more about stream health, this is the training for you! An indoor classroom session helps you learn how to conduct visual and biological stream assessments, and recognize environmental factors that may impact stream health. An outdoor session helps you practice your new-found skills at a local stream site. Afterwards, you will be a fully trained stream assessment volunteer and ready to conduct a new assessment this fall! This training will be conducted in conjunction with

the AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassador Program. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call (973) 538-3500.

Taste of Nature Party: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Great Swamp Watershed Association Headquarters - 568 Tempe Wick Road, Morristown

Have you ever tried dandelion wine? Do you know what types of wild plants can be harvested and eaten? Join us for this exciting spin on our always entertaining tasting events, where we will experiment with different food and drink made from New Jersey plants! This event is free to nonmembers and members who bring a nonmember friend as a guest (members coming alone or with other members can join in on the fun too, for a donation of \$25). Not only that - but for each nonmember that walks through our door, an anonymous donor has pledged to contribute \$25 to GSWA, and to match any gifts made to the organization, dollar-for-dollar. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call (973) 538-3500.

Vernal Pool Exploration Hike: Friday, March 31, 2017 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

GSWA's Conservation Management Area (CMA) - 1 Tiger Lily Lane, Harding TWP 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. But hurry! They disappear quickly.

Great Swamp Watershed Association's annual Vernal Pool Exploration provides a fun, outdoor learning experience for kids and adults alike. 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 springtime depends on a few unassuming puddles of water on the forest floor. Warm clothing and waterproof footwear – especially hiking boots – are very strongly recommended for this hike. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call (973) 538-3500.

HARDING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Meeting Highlights: First Meeting with New Mayor, Chris Yates

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.

All Committee persons were in attendance. 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.

Meeting Highlights: February 15, 2017

On February 15, your Civic Association once again hosted this event -- an informal engagement of citizens and elected leaders. For those who could not attend, here are prepared comments from the Mayor and TC members."

Nicolas Platt: On Commuter Parking - Now and the Future

Access to mass transit is a major driver of real estate values and Harding is no exception. The economic value of our proximity to Midtown Direct train service to Manhattan cannot be overstated. Towns with their own train stations, like Madison, Chatham, Summit and Short Hills, have seen strong home sales even in down markets.

Harding's ability to claim to be part of this mass transit hub became difficult for us ten years ago. That is when the Borough of Madison excluded Harding residents from participating in its Annual Commuter Parking Lottery as a result of the construction of their new Public Safety Building eliminated as many as 70 parking spaces from the commuter parking lot. Efforts to find spaces for Harding commuters in Madison has become nearly impossible

over the years and was completely shut down last week when Madison's Borough Council passed an ordinance to limit parking along their streets.

There is, however, reason for optimism. A change that involves both the bricks and mortar of an immense new infrastructure project and new "disruptive technology" that will change the way we do things. It will happen faster than we may think

First, the infrastructure: The Hudson Tunnel Project (often referred to as the Gateway Project because it includes much more than a tunnel) is projected to cost \$20 billion and will create two new train tunnels under the Hudson River. The trains will arrive and depart under the soon-to-be renovated Foley Post Office, across the street from the current Penn Station. These two new tunnels will be added to the two current century-old ones that were severely damaged by Hurricane Sandy and are still undergoing extensive repairs. The end result will be four tunnels to be shared by New Jersey Transit and Amtrak-- and the ability to add more trains to the schedule and new tracks designed to handle "faster" trains.

Second, the "disruption". Within the next five years there will be a revolution in automobile "driverless car" technology. It is already happening.

We should plan accordingly, because these two developments will combine to place Harding, with its unique proximity, squarely in the mass transportation "sweet spot" for the very first time.

How will it work?

Harding residents will now have easier access to rail service to New York City through driverless cars that do not need to be parked near the Madison or Convent Station train station. In the short term it will be Uber or a similar service. In the near future however, (about the time the tunnels are completed), driverless cars will move to the forefront. They will either be privately owned or available on a subscription basis from any of a number of service providers including the major car manufactures. These vehicles will be able to drop a commuter off at the station and (if you own it) return home for other family members to use, or if you subscribe, drive off to be used by other subscribers and be in constant use throughout a 24 hour period.

You might have missed it but an ad showed during the recent Super Bowl, the Ford Motor Company showed off both their driverless car and their concept on providing a vehicle on demand. Recently, the Town of Summit announced that they were no longer going to build additional underground commuter parking lot (at a cost of \$10 million) but were instead going to supplement the cost of their residents using Uber (\$162,000) to and from the station to free up parking spaces for shoppers in their downtown.

The future is often unimaginable. But these changes in driving options are coming now and, in various forms, are already on our streets. (Uber is currently conducting a test of driverless cars in downtown St. Louis.) The benefit for Harding is that its commuters will soon have greater, easier and faster access to New York City than they have ever had - and we will be freed of needing parking spaces in our neighboring towns. This is just the beginning of what will be in store for Harding in the next couple of years. Being a commuter to New York who utilized mass transit for the last 33 years I can say emphatically, yes, it will be a game changer.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Colorectal cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in American men and women. The most powerful method in preventing colorectal cancer is regular colorectal cancer screening or testing. People who have no identified risk factors should begin regular screening at age 50.

Research shows most people get screened because they were encouraged by someone they know and trust. So if you were screened, talk with others about it. Colorectal cancer is the cancer you can prevent.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday Speaker Series

Understanding the Middle East is the timely topic of the *Sunday Speaker Series* on **March 26 at 11:15 a.m.** in the library of Fellowship Hall to which all are invited. Led by Dr. Brid Nicholson, Ph.D. Graduate of Drew and professor of Irish, American, and Middle Eastern history at Kean University, the focus will be on the latest political and military developments, placing events in their historical context. Don't miss this opportunity to explore recent events in an explosive part of the world.

The Center for Musical Excellence cordially invites the community to a concert on **Sunday, April 1 at 5 p.m.** in the Church Sanctuary, featuring CME founder, director, and celebrated pianist, **Min Kwon**, and **Jonathan Spitz**, Principal 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!

HARDING TOWNSHIP RECREATION ASSOCIATION

TBall 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.
Find more info on all HTRA sports at www.HTRA.info

HARDING TOWNSHIP/GREEN VILLAGE BRIDLE PATH ASSOCIATION (HT/GV BPA)

News: The HT/GV BPA will be kicking off the 2017 Membership Drive on March 1, 2017. Therefore, watch your mail during the week of March 1st for the Membership Letter. Whether you're an existing member, or becoming a new member, when responding, please include your email address. Remember, 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.

Additionally, the Community Donation Drive is still 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. For those who have contributed in 2016, Thank You notes have been distributed that you can utilize for Tax purposes.

As previously announced, we have an exciting year ahead with equine educational and riding clinics and trail maintenance. We have also planned a picnic for members and donors planned, and more! Watch for the scheduled dates for these events on our web site, as well as in the Thumbnail.

As always, remember no motor vehicles of any type are permitted on the HT/GV Bridle Path Trails! Visit our web site at www.bridlepath.org for additional information, as well as our Facebook Page at Harding Township Green Village Bridle Path Assoc - and, when visiting our Facebook Page, don't forget to "Like" our Page!

ENVIROMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Highlights: February 1, 2017 Environmental Commission Meeting

The January minutes were approved.

The Commission approved a resolution supporting the Harding Land Trust application for Green Acres funding for Primrose Meadow planting of native species, wild flowers etc.

The 2017 goals include the following:

1. Education including website update for the Emerald Ash Borer, hazardous waste, and the addition of a new Wildlife section
2. Community Outreach and Engagement including upcoming Forest Health Presentation, Roadside Cleanup and Fall Recycling effort

3. Easement Stewardship completion of remaining high priority visits
4. Living Landscapes efforts to measure and understand Harding flora diversity

Roberta Shields emphasized how important it was to know the creatures that do or might use or occupy the space, and how the plantings that we plant or remove might impact those creatures. We want to plant landscapes friendly to wild life.

The Environmental Commission will host Dr. Jay Kelly on March 8th at 7pm. Dr. Kelly will discuss several informative scientific studies of Forest Health

We had further discussion about the April 22, 2017 Roadside Cleanup from 9a.m. to noon starting from Town Hall. We are looking for volunteers.

Canada Geese:

In its efforts to control the resident Canada geese population, the Township is again asking residents to help identify locations where Canada geese might be nesting. Volunteers are ready to assist by treating eggs so that they will not hatch (called addling), using methods approved by the Fish & Wildlife Service.

If you have a body of water on or near your property, or have seen goslings in prior years, it is likely that you will have nests again this year. Harassing birds during the nesting season, or removing eggs from nests is counterproductive, because it will encourage the birds to re-nest out of sight, where eggs can't be found or effectively treated.

Migratory geese will leave the area by the end of March. Resident bird pairs will then be more visible, usually claiming an area and keeping other pairs away. If you think your property is a potential nesting site, if you see obvious pairs, would like to learn more about what to look for or need help in spotting or treating nests, please call or email: r.a.shields@att.net (973) 267-5673. For help and best results, please call sooner rather than later. Addling eggs controls the growth of the geese population. Done properly, it is both, humane and effective!

HARDING TOWNSHIP SENIORS

March Events:

- 1) March 7--Tuesday--St. Patrick's Day Celebration, trip to Doolan's of Spring Lake to hear Mike Bryne's Band. 9 A M Departure from Church of Christ the King
- 2) March 16 Thursday 11 A M Parish Hall-Church of Christ the King Program; Irish Step Dancer

KEMMERER LIBRARY:

Programs: March 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.

Beginning Friday March 3, 3:45-4:45pm '#BYourBest! Kids in Grades 3-5 are invited to join the newest club in town!' is a 4-week interactive program which will include sessions on:

- Making and enjoying healthy snacks
- Learning dance moves to some favorite tunes
- creating body care products in the library spa lab
- Going "green" crafts

Registration required, please.

Thursday, March 16, 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm. Junior Garden Club: Participants will create a beautiful floral arrangement to take home. It is sponsored by the New Vernon Garden Club. "Enhancing the beauty of our town through nature." Registration requested, please.

Thursdays March 7, 14, 21, and 28, 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. *The workshop is at capacity. No more registrations accepted.*

Friday, March 24, 12-5 p.m., Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. NJ Makers Day: Residents, ages 5 to 95, are invited to join the Library staff for our first ever Makers Day. Together with 200+ New Jersey schools and libraries, we are devoting 2 days to hands-on creative fun for the whole family. We'll be going green and use old books to make beautiful bowls, fashionable jewelry, light-up postcards, and more. Everyone is invited! Registration requested, please.

Adult Programs:

Sundays at 4:00 p.m. February 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.

Wednesday, March 8, 7-8 p.m.: Assessing New Jersey's Forest Health. Professor Jay Kelly will discuss the health of our state's forests and ways to protect and maintain them to benefit native species and wildlife. Refreshments will be served. Registration required, please.

Tuesday, March 21, 1:30 p.m.: Daytime Book Group. Join our new, lively book group to discuss our February pick: Conclave by Robert Harris. This fast-moving novel (with a surprise ending!) tells the story of the modern-day election of a new pope. No registration required. All are welcome.

Class in formation: Painting with Acrylics. Thursdays, 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 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.

SAVE THE DATE: 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 our biennial preview party and art show by local artists and artisans.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:

It's time for the Auxiliary - sponsored "Homemade Soup/Chili Contest".

What: "CHILI/SOUP COOK-OFF"

Where: Fire House, Village Road

When: **Sunday, March 26**

Time: 5:00PM - 6:00PM

This year, we have included homemade desserts and soda in the price of admission. For \$10.00 you can sample many different chilis and soups with fresh baked bread, soda, coffee and homemade desserts. Vote for your favorites!

Prizes will be awarded. **As always, if you would like to enter a chili or soup in the contest, your admission is free.** Please call Connie Cherrillo (973-539-9383) to let us know you will be entering a pot of chili or soup.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Education Meeting - 7:00pm, Monday January 9, 2017

Board Budget. Superintendent Matt Spelker presented the preliminary 2017/2018 Harding Township school operating budget. The Superintendent stated three guidelines for the budget

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

Stated as major factors in the budget process that introduce uncertainties in both revenue and expenses, include enrollment (a net increase of 11 students occurred in enrollment in 2016-2017), health care costs (preliminary health premium increase of 10%-12% estimated), costs for out-of-district placement for special education students (preliminary estimated 4%-6% increase), maintenance needs (HVAC needs for the elementary building delayed from last year due to high bids received), curriculum enhancements, tuition students (current income

from tuition-paying students is about \$80K), and state aid (\$238K in 2016-2017). Another large uncertainty is the faculty union contract, which is under current negotiation.

In response to a question from the Thumbnail reporter, the Superintendent and board president, Davor Gjivoje, noted that the Board Facilities and Finance Committee would be discussing the several school finance state aid proposals that have been made by the Governor and legislators. The Board would discuss the implications of these for Harding at a future Board meeting.

The Superintendent summarized the preliminary budget by stating that the 2016-2017 budget might increase by about 2% over the 2016-2017 budget of \$11.4M. For reference, there was a 2.9% increase for the 2016-2017 budget over that for 2015-2016.

Budget schedule: (a) Preliminary budget II on March 13; (b) Tentative budget approved by Board and submitted to County Superintendent in March (date not specified); (c) Public hearing on budget on April 24.

The Superintendent's slide presentation is posted on the school web site: hardingtwp.org
Superintendent Report. Superintendent Spelker reported that he continued with his contacts with the Madison school administration, meeting with interim Superintendent Noonan on January 3.

Harding students placed 5th out of 85 NJ schools participating in the Future Cities competition ("The Power of Public Space") on January 14 at the Livingston campus of Rutgers University (<http://futurecity.org/new-jersey>). The 8 participating students will present their work at the February 27 Board meeting.

Superintendent Spelker announced that the annual Harding science fair would be held on February 7. The school play will be held on March 18-19.

Facilities and Finance. The Board approved a contract for nursing services for a special education out of district placement with Bayada Home Health Care for \$300/day for a six-hour day through June 30, 2017, with a termination clause of thirty days notice.

Madison Report. Abi Singh, Board representative to the Madison Board of Education, reported that the Madison superintendent search was on-going. He also reported that the Madison STEM enhancements were on track for completion in August. There are upgrades for the Madison junior school and a new STEM addition for the high school. The funding comes from the sale of the Madison Board property on Green Village Road.

Executive Session. The Board entered into executive session to discuss the status of negotiations with the Harding Township Education Association union. No actions were to be taken.

Board of Education Meeting Highlights: February 6, 2017

Board Business. Board president and chair of the Policy Committee Davor Gjivoje guided the Board and the public in attendance in an extensive and lengthy first reading of 45 Board Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations that require changes, modifications, and/or introduction for 2017. A large majority of these are required by state legislative mandates. Others are Board responsibilities in the context of effective school oversight and administration. More than 15 mandated policies are in categories related to health, affirmative action, and student assessment. A new mandated policy controls the use of drones over public school property. Another mandated policy relates to professional development for teachers and school leaders, aligning the development to mandated professional standards. A Bylaw on recording of Board meetings was revised. The Board also proposes to slightly change its policy on public participation at meetings by giving the presiding officer (usually the president) the option at the president's discretion to extend an individual public comment beyond the current 5-minute limit. This policy change will provide for the Board to engage in even more constructive discussion with the public.

The Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations are posted on the Board website: hardingtwp.org. The second reading and passage will occur at the February 27th meeting.

The Board also heard and engaged in a lengthy discussion of school board ethics, led by the Board's legal counsel Marc Zitomer. The New Jersey Code requires a Board to annually discuss school ethics, but does not specify how such discussion should occur. The Harding Board opts for transparency purposes to have such a yearly discussion in public and in depth. Mr. Zitomer led the discussion of both sections of the School Ethics Act: Section 1 - Conflicts of Interest, and Section 2 - Code of Ethics (which relates to Board conduct and leadership of the school). Copies of Mr. Zitomer's slides are available from the Board office.

Superintendent Report. Superintendent Matt Spelker reported that he continued with his articulation sessions with the Madison school administration, meeting again with interim Madison Superintendent Noonan on January 31st. Among other items discussed, was the synchronization of the calendars of the two schools. Superintendent Spelker also reported that the Madison High School Principal and the Junior High School Principal met on January 20 in Harding with Harding school Principal Mary Donohue.

Superintendent Spelker proudly announced that the Harding girls' basketball team had finished in second place in the championship tournament held in Whippany on February 4th. He reported that the stands were filled with cheering Harding students, parents, and teachers.

The school play will be held on March 17-19 in the Sellitto gymnasium.
The next tentative school budget will be presented to the public at the March 13th Board meeting.

Curriculum and Instruction. Committee member Richard Bruno reported that work was in progress for the roll out in September of the elementary school NextGen science standards. <http://www.nextgenscience.org/new-jersey> and accompanying links. These standards are hands-on and laboratory-based. Currently, the Harding elementary school devotes three 40-minute periods a week to science instruction.

Facilities and Finance. The Board unanimously approved the January 2017 bill list in the amount of \$946,774.13.

Science Fair. The Harding Science Fair was held the evening following the Board meeting, February 7. Some 130 students K-8 were involved, more than one third of the student body. The students participated individually or as two-person teams. All of the student participants appeared to be enthusiastic about their intellectual and hands-on opportunities to develop hypotheses, experimental procedures, and understanding of the world of biology, physical sciences, and engineering. Non-Harding science teachers and researchers judged the projects of participants in grades 5-6 and 7-8.

Grades 5-6

1 st Place:	Sophia Nguyen:	Training a guinea pig through a maze
2 nd Place	Vedran Gjivoje:	Comparing liquids for evaporation rate
3 rd Place	Erin Barisonek:	How music can impact memory

Grades 7-8

1 st Place	Olivia and Grace DiRienzo:	Corrosiveness of types of soda on coins
2 nd Place	Maya Tahl:	Hydraulic lift model
3 rd Place	Lily Barisonek:	Effects of various beverages on teeth

(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.

E-Mail: You can stay informed of the Green Village Fire Department's upcoming events by visiting our website at www.greenvillagefire.com and subscribing to our email list using the "subscribe to email" button. There you can also choose and update your email preferences.

HARDING LAND TRUST

Upcoming Events:

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. The guest speaker and more details will be announced soon. The business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by the special program at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call the Harding Land Trust office at 973-267-2515 or visit the website at www.hardinglandtrust.org.

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for April 2017 Thumbnail please email by Friday, March 17th, 2017. **MS Word is the preferred format, thank you!**

Upcoming Thumbnail Schedule:

April Thumbnail deadline: March 17th

May Thumbnail deadline: April 14th

June Thumbnail deadline: My 19th

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

MAR 11TH, 25TH

APR 8TH, 22ND

JULY 1ST, 15TH, 29TH

OCT 7TH, 21ST

MAY 6TH, 20TH

AUG 12TH, 26TH

NOV 4TH, 18TH

JUNE 3RD, 17TH

SEPT 9TH, 23RD

DEC 2ND, 16TH, 30TH

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

	<u>Meetings as noted</u>	<u>Time</u>
Environmental Commission	1 st Wednesday	7:30 PM
Seniors: Christ the King Church	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	11:00AM
Planning Board	4 th Monday	7:30 PM
Historical Preservation Committee	1 st Thursday	7:30 PM
Board of Health	2 nd Thursday	7:30 PM
Board of Education	1st & 3rd Monday	7:30 PM
Board of Adjustment	3 rd Thursday	7:30 PM
Township Committee	1 st & 2 nd Monday	7:30 PM
Harding Open Space	2 nd Wednesday	7:30 PM
Harding TWP Civic Association	2 nd Tuesday	7:30 PM