

# Harding Township Civic Association

## THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since 1949”

[www.HardingCivic.org](http://www.HardingCivic.org)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### March 2018

#### First Glimpse At Harding’s FY2018 Municipal Budget

CFO Himanshu Shah and Assistant Treasurer Andy Fiore presented the 2018 Municipal Budget to the Township Committee and members of the Public at the Committee’s January 15 regular meeting. The proposed budget, which makes up 25% of our property tax bill, is a 1.7% increase over 2017. This will result in a \$34 increase in taxes for the average home assessed at \$1.04 million. The largest increase was in municipal employees’ health insurance coverage which was indicated at \$1.23 million, or 13.6% of the entire budget, up approximately \$157 thousand from past year, after the Township received notification that its prior policy was discontinued. Mayor Yates and Deputy Mayor DiTosto indicated that this was a direct ramification of Obamacare, but that in 2018 the Township Committee would explore the feasibility of self-insuring while maintaining the appropriate coverage for its employees. The budget also calls for a \$50 thousand increase for Capital Budget (to \$750 thousand per year) for infrastructure investments including police vehicles, road improvements, and a new building at the Public Works facility. Township Committeeman Nic Platt also alerted residents that the Township must complete a property revaluation in 2020.

Final passage is slated for March 12 meeting. The public is invited to attend, ask questions, and participate in discussion on all items relating to the budget at this upcoming meeting.

#### Morris County Budget - A First Look

About 25% of your property taxes go to Morris County (MC). The other 75% stays in Harding for the school (about 50%) and municipal services (25% - police, DPW, Open Space, etc).

For years, Thumbnail has wanted to shine a light on where that money goes and dig into the \$300+ million budget of Morris County. Thumbnail just never had the “band width” to pull it off. But with the increase in volunteers we were able to start our examination.

At an open meeting on Feb 13, three Freeholders and the county executive discussed the drivers of the 2018 budget if not the actual dollar amounts.

Increasing spending are (a) salary increases (up about 2%), (b) costs to transition to self-funded prescription drug program for county employees - need to build reserve, (c) Increase in liability and workers comp insurance premiums, (d) employer pension increases (e) state human service/mental health cost increases, (f) investments in programs identified in Strategic Planning Process.

Decreasing spending are (a) Leasing of Morris View nursing home facility, (b) reduction in utility costs, (c) reduction in debt service and (d) reduction in capital expenses.

The leasing of Morris View, a nursing home on Hanover Avenue in Morris Plains, has been a significant financial drain for many years. Most municipal nursing homes across the state have been sold. MC uniquely chose to lease the facility to a commercial operator. Exiting by outright sale or leasing, removed 200 employees (nurses and aids) from the MC payroll and importantly for costs, removed them from the state pension system.

Morris View lease transaction closed Nov 1, 2017 so MC will begin to reap the benefits, described as “minimal”, in fiscal year 2018. In several years, the savings (avoided cost increases) will be \$7 million.

We asked if they could estimate if the tax levy would be going up, down or sideways and by how much. The response was that the budget would be revealed at Feb 28 meeting. We’ll be there.

### Police Sergeant Thomas Downs Honored, Retires

The Township Committee voted to accept the retirement of Police Sargent Thomas Downs, after serving the residents of Harding Township since July 2001. Prior to joining Harding Police Department, Sargent Downs served on the Madison Police Department and was a Detective in the Morris County Prosecutor’s Office. The Township Committee extended its appreciation and congratulations for many years of dedicated service.

### Board of Education

#### **Board of Education Meeting 02-05-2018**

**Presentation and Discussion.** The College of Saint Elizabeth/United Way collaborative gave an extensive presentation to the Board and public on the School Culture and Climate Initiative. Presenters were Patricia Heindel, Ph.D., Dean at the College and Elizabeth Warner of the United Way of Northern New Jersey. The *Initiative* has been working with 39 schools in the region, and with Harding for the last four years. The school climate and culture mission is “To ensure all children have the solid foundation and lifelong skills needed to thrive socially, emotionally, physically, and academically”. The data used to evaluate, institute changes, and then follow changes in a school’s “climate and culture” consist of acquiring and evaluating questionnaires and interviews from students (elementary and middle separate), staff (faculty, aids, administration), and parents over the three years. This presentation was the summary of the findings and changes in the culture and climate of the Harding school since the initiative’s initiation in 2013-2014.

The bottom line from the presentation was that significant positive increases were found in most key areas; for example, in such middle student areas as friendship, school connectedness, and school pride. The data from the staff cohort found significant positive increases in areas such as supportive leadership, quality of staff appraisal, and overall morale. For both elementary and middle school students, and for staff, the perception of frequency of bullying significantly decreased. Data from the parent group reported significant increases in general satisfaction with teachers, school climate, and their involvement with the school (although these parental factors had already been quite high in the initial survey in 2013-2014).

Much discussion with the Board and public ensued, including topics such as areas of needed continued focus (such as staff and student health, transition to Madison High School, school pride, on-going staff development), and what the next steps might be to follow on the successes of this culture and climate effort. The 40 page slide set from Heindel and Warner is available on the Harding school website: [www.hardingtwp.org](http://www.hardingtwp.org)

**Superintendent Report.** Superintendent Matt Spelker reported that the monthly Harding-

Madison articulation between the two superintendents would occur on February 22nd. Madison Superintendent Mark Schwarz will attend the Harding Board of Education meeting on February 26th.

Superintendent Spelker also reported that the school's initial Strategic Planning meeting would convene on February 12th. Members of the planning group include staff, parents, and members of the Harding community including the mayor, fire department volunteers, and others.

**Facilities and Finance.** The Board unanimously approved the February 5, 2018, bill list in the amount of \$639,092. The Board also unanimously approved a contract for BAYADA Home Health Care Inc at the rate of \$60/hour for emergency backup nursing care if needed.

Facilities and Finance Chair Abi Singh reported that the HVAC project in the middle school was underway, and that more research is required before proceeding for the elementary school HVAC.

*(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 are placed on the Harding School website, generally about a month after the meeting date.)*

## **Planning Board Meeting January 22, 2018**

**Declaration of Appointments by the Township Committee:** Pending the election of officers, the meeting was called to order by Mr. Hall. He announced the appointments to the Board of Dev Modi (Class I), Tim Jones (Class III), Peter Saulnier (Class IV), Tom dePoortere (Class IV), David Chipperson (Class IV), Nik Bjorkedal (Alternate #1), and Gwenn Claytor ( Alternate #2). He administered the oath of office to the appointees.

### **2018 Reorganization**

1. Mr. Saulnier was unanimously elected Chairman. The meeting was turned over to Mr. Saulnier, and Mr. Clew was unanimously elected Vice Chair.
2. The resolution for professional services (to be provided by Messrs. Fox and Hall) was unanimously approved. No planner was approved since one was hired by the town. Mr. Saulnier noted that the professionals were not evaluated last year, and a plan was needed to do evaluations this year. Mr. Hall swore in Mr. Fox.
3. The resolution to set the meeting dates for 2018 was unanimously approved. Meetings will continue to be on the fourth Monday except for November and December when the meetings will be on the third Monday.
4. The resolution for "Do Not Exceed Limits" for professionals (\$8500 for Mr. Hall and \$4500 for Mr. Fox) was unanimously approved.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on and November 27, 2017 were approved without comment.

### **Announcements/Reports/Presentations**

Mr. Saulnier welcomed Ms. Claytor as a new alternate Mr. Chipperson as a regular member of the Board. He then asked the Board to think about goals and objectives for this year. For example, should side variances for things such as play sets be relaxed? Possible issues for discussion should be emailed to Mr. Saulnier. Affordable housing continues to be a hot topic. The next conference with the judge will be on February 5th to establish parameters on an overall agreement. The Township Committee will be holding a volunteer seminar on February 24th which is hoped will improve linkages with all governmental bodies. Phil Rosenbach of the Board of Adjustment sent

an email looking for help interpreting the ordinance which allows accessory structures which contribute to the rural character of the town to be excluded from the building area. Mr. Clew reported that the Environmental Commission will be hosting a lecture on bats and a bat box building session at Town Hall; spring cleanup will be held on April 21st. Mr. Modi reported that the town is required to do a real estate tax re-evaluation in 2019, which will be put into effect in 2020. This is a tax neutral exercise with taxes on 1/3 of the properties expected to go up, 1/3 go down and 1/3 staying the same.

### **Applications**

PB 04-16, Alan and Benjamin Franklin, 61 Village Road, Block 16, Lot 13. Minor subdivision. Request for Extension. There is an issue with the county concerning a road and applicant hasn't received county approval. Mr. Hall indicated that an extension was permissible, and the Board approved a six-month extension.

PB 02-17/4-10, GHK Realty II and GHK Realty III, LLC, 655 and 665 Spring Valley Road, Block 4, Lots 21 and 21.01. No action, incomplete. LOI has expired and the Board will wait for a new one.

### **Other Business**

- Master Plan hearing on Proposed Amendments to Open Space Tables. Mr. Dietz is assisting Ms. Taglairino with table updates. Carried until next meeting.
- Mr. Edgar wondered about the appropriateness of having an applicant wait to address a relatively minor item until other business is concluded. Mr. Hall advised that the Chairman is free to change the agenda.
- Wireless Communication Nodes Coming to Harding

## **February 12th Township Committee Meeting**

### **Verizon Wireless To Install 26 Network Nodes on Poles in Harding**

A representative of Verizon Wireless informed attendees about the companies plan to use "small network nodes" to enhance coverage in Harding. When combined with a new tower at the DPW site, these boxes on poles will fix the cell service problem.

A node is a box (55x22x11 inches) that is attached to a pole 8-10 feet off the ground. At the top of the pole (35 ft) another box (22" long) is the antenna. The pole itself is the familiar telephone pole. Power for the nodes electronics is provided from an electrical cable from a nearby existing pole, usually across the street.

Verizon plans 26 of these nodes - 24 on new polls and two on existing poles. Depending on "line of site" issues, the poles will be 500 to 1000 feet apart to ensure coverage. The nodes are planned for Long Hill, Glen Alpin and Tempe Wick Roads.

Verizon Wireless rep said that the company "would love to use existing poles" to mount their equipment, but owners of the poles won't allow it. Those owners of the poles are Verizon Telecom (different from Verizon Wireless - who knew?!) and the electric company.

If T-Mobile and AT&T need to enhance their coverage, then one and ONLY one can co-locate their gear on these new poles. This would suggest that the 3<sup>rd</sup> carrier would need to install ANOTHER 24 poles.

Installation is not imminent and a public meeting on this will be held at an unspecified later date.

## **Fairchild Farm Garners First Ever Harding Historic House of the Year Award**

The residence of John and Sally Quinn at 26 Lee's Hill Road was awarded the first ever "Historic House of the Year" from the Harding Historic Preservation Commission. Fairchild Farm is "a classic vernacular farmhouse of which the oldest part was built around 1750 by Joseph Fairchild (1724-1804) in what was then Passaic Township". Fairchild Farm is on the state and national registers of historic places.

## **Full Time Police Officer Sworn In - Force Back at Full Strength**

Lukas Micoletti was sworn in to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Sergeant Thomas Downs. Officer Micolette has experience from Wildwood at the Shore and has worked with Harding PD for a period already.

## **COAH News: 96 Townhouses To Be Built in Harding - 16 COAH eligible.**

At the January TC meeting, an agreement between HT and Mt Kemble Associates LLC (a Kushner organization entity) was revealed to the public. The agreement allows Mt Kemble Associates (MKA) to build 96 housing units on the property behind the large office park on Rt 202, north of Blackwell Ave and south of Frederick Place.

The property is owned by the Kushner organization and, if you recall, was the focus of a plan by Morris Township to purchase/annex the land and build soccer fields. Harding scotched that plan thereby keeping the land in Harding. (At the time, Kushner quietly suggested that if HT didn't allow the sale of the property to MT, they would sell it to a mega-church from Newark.)

The current agreement was forced by MKA because they "intervened" in HT's affordable housing plan which is pending in front of the affordable housing czar - the so-called Special Master a judge who has absolute power to determine land use using affordable housing as the club. In this case, Harding was able to ensure that access to the 96 units will be through the office park (not Blackwell Ave) and that MTA will pay HT \$1 million.

If the plan is approved by the Special Master, sixteen of the 96 units will be designated as low and moderate income. HT's COAH obligation is not yet defined but is likely in the range 200-300 units.

Note that in this case, 96 total units are being built for HT to get 16 COAH credits. That's 6 times the number of COAH units. If HT's COAH obligation is 200-300, then it could mean that HT must allow 1200-1800 new housing units. This is a number that would change the character of HT in terms of land use and school population not to mention taxes. As the authority for these decision is from the NJ Supreme Court as a result of the historic Mt Laurel decision there is precious little a municipality can do.

## **Health Department**

### **Health Benefits of Spring Cleaning:**

Spring is right around the corner which means it is time to get ready for spring cleaning. Not only does spring cleaning help to clean and tidy your house but it can also improve your overall health. Read the tips below to find out how.

Cleaning is a de-stressor. 20 minutes of cleaning can decrease stress and anxiety by 20 percent.

- It helps you breath better. Dust and pet dander can trigger allergens making it hard to breath. Dusting and vacuuming will open your airways up in no time.
- Improves your mood. Clean homes can have a positive effect on your mood and are not associated with depression.
- It gets you moving and active. You burn calories by cleaning because you're in motion.

- It helps increase productivity. Clutter on your desk such as folders and papers can make it difficult for you to get your work done. It is important to de-clutter your work space to work to the best of your ability.
- It helps you sleep well. People who make their beds daily are 19 percent more likely to consistently sleep well.
- It influences diet. Individuals placed in clean rooms are more likely to choose healthier snack options than those in a disorderly room.

There are many benefits to spring cleaning so spring into cleaning and improve your health. For information, you can visit: <https://www.rd.com/home/cleaning-organizing/spring-cleaning-benefits/>

## The Raptor Trust

**Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 1:00 pm**

It's Spring! Birds are arriving, building nests and laying eggs...right in your own backyard! Learn about the many species of birds that live and nest in your New Jersey backyard. We will also talk about the baby birds that fall from nests and what you can do to help injured or orphaned wild birds. We will introduce one of our permanent resident raptors during the program. After/before the program, you are welcome to take a self-guided tour of our outdoor display aviaries. \$10/person, ages 8 and up. Please call our education center at 908-647-1091 to register.

## First Presbyterian Church

**Ongoing! Toddler Time, Wednesdays 1:30-3:00 pm...**in partnership with the Kemmerer Library, a play group for children under 5. A time for toddler free play while adults can socialize. Plan to join the fun at the Library, lower level. Healthful snacks provided.

Please join us for a **Maundy Thursday service on March 29 at 7 pm.**

**Trip to Iona:** If you are seeking inspiration, healing, courage, or new beginnings, consider joining Rev. Bill Stone and leaders from the Shalem Institute in Washington, D.C. ([www.shalem.org](http://www.shalem.org)) on a pilgrimage to this small island off the coast of Scotland from May 31-June 10. Iona has drawn spiritual seekers to its haunting beauty and simplicity for centuries. Only three miles long, it is a sanctuary and source of nourishment in an often chaotic and stressful world. On Iona, we will look to St. Columba and other Celtic saints as a source of inspiration. If interested, contact Rev. Stone at 908-809-9265.

The **Sunday Speaker Series** will continue on April 22 with an enlightening program on the heroin and opioid epidemic in Morris County.

## The Center for Musical Excellence

There is a new concert series in town—don't miss the opportunity to hear world-class music right at your doorstep! The Center for Musical Excellence (CME) and the First Presbyterian Church will present the second of their four-concert series, Music Made Here, on Sunday afternoon, April 8, at 3 o'clock in the sanctuary. Entitled Quartet Plus, the program features the exciting Harlem Quartet, a Grammy-winning ensemble, joined by Steinway Artist, award-winning pianist and CME founder and director Min Kwon, as they perform Robert Schumann's glorious Piano Quintet in E-flat major, Opus 44 for two violins, viola, cello, and piano. Also appearing are Lucy Lee on viola and Patrick Hopkins on cello playing Tchaikovsky's Souvenir de Florence. The concert will be followed by an informal reception to meet the artists in Fellowship Hall.

The series continues on October 14 with *Opera Extravaganza* and December 9, *Winter*

*Celebration.* For tickets and further information, kindly consult: [cmemusic.org](http://cmemusic.org). Tickets also available at the door: \$30 for adults, under 18 free.

## **Great Swamp Watershed Association**

### **Coffee & Tea Tasting - Clean water makes the best cup of coffee or tea!**

Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

*GSWA Headquarters, 568 Tempe Wick Rd., Morristown, NJ*

Take the sting out of this cold winter and tantalize your taste buds with a variety of delicious, hot coffees and teas. We've teamed up with two local companies to offer you some of their most scrumptious flavors. Black River Roasters has everything from mild to dark and rich, and Adagio Teas offers unique and interesting tea blends. We'll even spike a few for good measure! It's the perfect way to discover your next favorite morning (or anytime) beverage. Appetizers are also on the menu for the evening, so come on out for this winter tasting event.

Did we mention it's free? Here's how it works. If you are not a GSWA member, this event is free! Members can join in on the fun too, for a suggested donation of \$25 - however, if you bring a non-member friend as a guest, and it's free to you too! Registration required. Register online at [GreatSwamp.org](http://GreatSwamp.org) or call (973) 538-3500.

### **Breakfast Briefing: Exploring NJ's Climate Variability & Change**

Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 8:00-9:30 a.m.

*GSWA Headquarters, 568 Tempe Wick Rd., Morristown, NJ*

Within the past decade, New Jersey has experienced its wettest and warmest years in over a century of observations. Extreme events of late, including Sandy, Irene, and a number of hot summers, suggest that something is happening to NJ's climate regime. Dr. David Robinson of Rutgers University will explore the physical dimensions of the issue, both short and long term. He will also provide information on how interested individuals can contribute to the monitoring of weather/ climate conditions in the local region. Registration required. Register online at [GreatSwamp.org](http://GreatSwamp.org) or call (973) 538-3500.

### **St. Paddy's Day Spring into Green Hike**

Saturday, March 17, 2018, 10:00 -12:00 p.m.

*Watchung Reservation, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside*

It's St. Patrick's Day and Spring is just 3 days away! Put some hiking shoes on your feet, gather up your family, and join us on our "Downstream Adventures" hiking series at the Watchung Reservation. There's lots to see and explore as we hike alongside the Blue Brook. We will take in the scenic gorges and the remnants of the deserted village of Feltsville. This hike wouldn't be complete without taking a moment to marvel at the beauty of Lake Surprise. Registration required. Register online at [GreatSwamp.org](http://GreatSwamp.org) or call (973) 538-3500.

### **Vernal Pool Exploration Hike**

Thursday, March 29, 2018, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

*GSWA Conservation Management Area,  
1 Tiger Lily Lane, Harding Township, NJ*

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 we have to hurry! They disappear quickly.

GSWA'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 upon 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](http://GreatSwamp.org) or call (973) 538-3500.

## Harding Township Senior Citizens

March 8 Program “Strickley Museum”. Given by Kristen McCougly

March 22 Irish Music by Richard Stillman playing the bagpipes & step dancing

## Bridle Path Association

The 2018 riding season kicked off with a very frigid start. We hope that everyone kept both your horse’s and yourselves toasty warm, and could get out and enjoy the wintry wonderland on our beautiful Harding Township trails.

The 2018 Membership Drive will begin in a couple months. So please stay tuned; and check your email and mailboxes for the Membership Drive Registration Letter and Form.

2018 also brings a new Trail Maintenance Committee. The 2018 Trail Maintenance Committee includes: Sean Calquhoun, Kathleen Young, and Ron Young

***Don’t forget - See Something/Do Something:*** if you’re riding and see “something;” do something. Don’t leave a hole, broken glass, fallen branches, etc. that could cause harm to you or your horse, or make the trails impassable, go without action. If you personally cannot correct the situation, please email [dorothymccann.dm@gmail.com](mailto:dorothymccann.dm@gmail.com) and the Trail Maintenance committee will be notified.

**Social Media:** Please visit our Facebook Page @ Harding Township Green Village Bridle Path Assoc. and when visiting our Facebook Page, don’t forget to “Like” our Page! Happy Trails.

*As always, remember no motor vehicles of any type are permitted on the HT/GV Bridle Path Trails!*

## Harding Township Recreation Association

### **Harding Summer Camp Registration is Now Open!**

Registration for the Harding Township Day Camp is now open and is your place for summer fun! We provide campers with a positive summer camping experience with a variety of activities that emphasize fun, relaxation and exploration! For more information and to register online, please see the Summer Camp page at [www.HTRA.info](http://www.HTRA.info).

### **Harding T-Ball Registration is Now Open!**

Registration for the Harding Township T-Ball is now open. It’s still cold outside but Spring is around the corner! Season runs from April 20-May 25, with optional mid-week practices and games every Friday from 6-7pm. For more information and to register online, please see the T-Ball page [www.HTRA.info](http://www.HTRA.info).

### **Lacrosse Registration Is Now Open!**

Registration for Spring lacrosse is now open. There is be the Minilaxers clinic for Harding boys and girls in grades K-2, and girls lacrosse for Harding girls in grades 3-8. For more information, please see the HTRA Lacrosse page at <http://htra.info/lacrosse/>.

Find more info on all HTRA sports at [www.HTRA.info](http://www.HTRA.info).

## Harding Land Trust

### **Free Trees From the Harding Land Trust--**

In connection with the Environmental Commission's *Street Cleanup Day*, The Harding Land Trust is pleased to offer Harding Residents the opportunity to adopt free 2-4' high bare root tree seedlings. Distribution will take place on Saturday April 21st 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. Come and help clean our streets and plant trees to make our Harding beautiful!

### **Harding Land Trust Annual Meeting--**

Please join the Harding Land Trust for their Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 26th at the New Vernon Fire House. Dr. Andrea Gaito, renowned rheumatologist specializing in Lyme disease, will be the guest speaker. Dr. Gaito has been involved with Lyme disease- patient education, treatment, medical research for almost 30 years. Her talk will touch on important topics to our community such as testing, treatment, prevention, and new research.

In addition, Andrew Korzon, of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, will present the design plan and installation approach for the conversion of a 13 acre field at Harding Land Trust's Primrose Farm property into a native wildflower and grass meadow.

Dessert and wine will be served at 6:30 followed by the business meeting and guest speaker at 7:00 p.m. Please R.S.V.P. by calling 973-267-2515.

### **HLT is Hiring a Development Coordinator--**

The Harding Land Trust is seeking a Development Coordinator to manage all development activities and work closely with the Development Committee and President. The successful candidate will support a broad range of the organization's fundraising efforts, membership cultivation, marketing, advertising, event management, publications and community engagement. This position is part time with flexible hours. Qualified candidates should submit resume and cover letter to [jobs@hardinglandtrust.org](mailto:jobs@hardinglandtrust.org). Salary commensurate with experience.

### **Kemmerer Library:**

**Operating Hours:** Monday-Friday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m.-1p.m., Sunday: Closed.

Unless otherwise noted, we ask that you register for our programs in advance. Please visit our website at [www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org) or call us at 973-267-2665.

If you would like to add your email address to the Library notifications of programs, please send an email to [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org).

### **Children's Programs:**

**Toddler Story Time, Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m.** Wendy Marchev and Miss Kryssi welcome toddlers and pre-schoolers to join them for stories, songs, movement, and a simple craft.

**Playgroup for under-5s, Wednesdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m.** Parents and caregivers with babies and toddlers can meet for tea, coffee and a chat whilst children play and meet new friends, downstairs in the Library. Registration not required, drop-in when you can!

**NEW for March; Saturday morning 'Reading Together', March 3, 10:30-11:30 a.m.** Children in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade are invited to immerse themselves in the wonderful world of story as our reader brings some popular stories to life on the rug in the children's room. **Session 1** will be a tribute to Dr. Seuss. Come wearing your red socks and enjoy the magic of 'Fox in Sox' and 'Green Eggs and Ham'. No registration required, just drop-in!

**Special St. Patrick's Day Crafternoon and Story, March 9, 3:45-4:45 pm.** Join Miss Stacey to make your own, adorable 'lucky' frog with a shamrock smile in our special stuffed animal workshop. Registration is required and space is limited so sign-up early! Best suited to kids in K-4.

**Junior Garden Club, Thursday, March 15, 3:45-4:45 pm.** This month's program is called 'Spring Planting; Edible Academy'. Kids in grades K-7 will learn about rainbow gardening; and will plant tomatoes and other vegetables to grow at home. Sponsored by the New Vernon Garden Club, 'Enhancing the beauty of our town with nature'. This is a very popular program so please register in advance.

**Teen Program:**

'Chat n' Chew', Middle School Book Club meet on the **first Sunday of every month, 3-4 p.m.** in the Adult Reading Room. On **March 4**, they will be discussing 'Carry On' by Rainbow Rowell. Sign-up online if you'd like to join them!

**Adult Programs:**

**Book Group, Tuesday, March 20, 1:30 p.m.** Join our lively book group to discuss 'Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back' by Janice Nimura. The Book Group meet on the third Tuesday of each month.

**Weekly Activities:**

Gentle Yoga, Mondays 10:30 a.m. MJ Turnbull's outstanding and hugely popular classes continue. \$10 suggested donation per class, please.

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

Card Club, Wednesdays, 2-5 p.m. Social play. All levels are welcome.

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

**Friends of Kemmerer Library:**

The Friends of the Library welcomes YOU! Residents are invited to participate in the Friends group by attending our monthly meetings where we develop ideas for fundraising events in support of the Library, and/or by serving as a volunteer on an event committee.

The next meeting of the Friends will be on March 1, 2018, at 10:15 a.m. in the Library.

Fabulous Hands-on COOKING CLASS and BUFFET DINNER

Friday evening April 27 ,7:00pm to 9:00pm

HEALTHY ITALIA -LA BUONA CUCINA

55 Main Street Madison

Limited to 40 Participants -Bring your spouse or friends

PREPAID REGISTRATION \$75.00 per person by April 23

Make checks to Friends of the Kemmerer Library

Mail to Friends Of Kemmerer Library

P.O. Box 517 New Vernon, NJ 07976

**The Harding Township Environmental Commission** is pleased to sponsor several new educational events this Spring:

**All about Bats.** On Wednesday, March 7th at 7:00pm, the commission will host Kathleen Kerwin from the Rutgers Wildlife Conservation and Management Program. Kathleen will share insights from her research on bats, their habitat and approaches to reducing conflicts with humans.

**Build you own Bat Box.** On Saturday, March 10th, 9:00am, the Environmental Commission will host a Bat Box Build event where you can assemble your own bat boxes from pre-cut materials.

**Harding's Ecological Healthcheck.** On Wednesday, March 28th at 7:00pm, Dr. Emile DeVito will present results of a plant stewardship inventory that will help the town to understand the relative health of Harding's flora.

**Annual Roadside Cleanup and Tree Give-Away.** On Saturday, April 21st beginning at 9am, the Environmental Commission will host its annual Roadside Cleanup. The EC will once again partner with the Harding Land Trust to give away young trees for Spring planting. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

### Harding Township Civic Association:

#### **Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements**

If you have a submission for **April 2018 Thumbnail** please email to: [HTCA@mail.com](mailto:HTCA@mail.com) by **Friday, March 16, 2018.**

MS Word is the preferred format, thank you!

#### **Upcoming Thumbnail Schedule:**

May 2018 Thumbnail deadline: April 20

Current and past issues of the Thumbnail, as well as the Directory, are available on our Website: [www.HardingCivic.org](http://www.HardingCivic.org). Send questions or comments about *Thumbnail* to editor to: [HTCA@mail.com](mailto:HTCA@mail.com) or PO Box 72 New Vernon, NJ 07976.

### Harding Township Recycling

#### **2018 Saturday Recycling Schedule**

MARCH 10, 24

APRIL 7, 21

MAY 5, 19

#### **Hours of Operation:**

**Wednesdays:** 7 a.m. - 12 Noon (7- 9am self service)

**Every other Saturday:** 9 a.m. - 12 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.

**Recycling Questions:** Please contact Tracy Toribio at Harding Department: 973 267 2448, Mon- Fri 8:30 am to 3 pm.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

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

**Meetings as noted**

**Time**  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 7:30 PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 11:00AM  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday 7:30 PM  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday 7:30 PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 7:30 PM  
1st & 3rd Monday 7:00 PM  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:30 PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 7:30 PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 7:30 PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 7:30 PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 7:30 PM

**DATED MATERIAL**

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

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